To: Joel Orosz February 8, 1999

From: Eric P. Newman

In the Fall 1998 Asylum you are quoted as having told Hodder about what I said in a recorded interview I had some tine ago about some of my most interesting coins. Do you have a copy or transcript of that interview?

Did you see the item in the Asylum? I just did. At least the authenticity of the coins was not challenged. The write up also included a sales pitch for a similar coin from an unnamed source.

Should I respond to this write up after I learn what I said?

Best regards.

To: John R. Horan
Oleg Rifkin (Rivkin)

February 16, 1999

From: Eric P. Newman

cc: Leslie Elam
John Kleeberg

Re: Naftzger's Reply Brief

A few preliminary comments which I think are important. They are not in pagination order. More may come.

p. 3 It is stated by ~~the enemy~~ our opponent that ~~the trial court denied~~ was not made the ANS motion for punitive damages etc. "until the trial began". This is absolutely not true. It is admitted to be untrue by the ~~enemy itself~~ opponent on p. 25 where it is stated that it was "literally on the eve of trial" and again on p. 27 that it was "literally on the eve of trial". It was filed promptly after discovery of the evidence on which it was based and because Naftzger had not produced to ANS all the letters he wrote or received. This misstatement should in my view be featured in your oral argument. The judge didn't want to delay the trial and might might have had to if the motion was granted.

p. 16 Naftzger admits trying to "soft pedal" the Sheldon connection to the New Netherlands sale of cents Naftzger got from Sheldon. He knew that it was dangerous to ~~attach~~ associate coins to Sheldon because he knew some were stolen. That "soft pedal" is just plain cover up and an admission that he knew he was selling stolen goods.

p. 18 Streiner did not approach Naftzger about selling his early cents until Naftzger had approached Stack's and then Stack's told Streiner of the possibility and thus Stack's got a $500,000 fee for doing so when the sale went through.

p. 24 The argument that stolen coins be valued at "time of conversion" as the basis for damages is impossible in this matter. No one knows in what year or during what time period or on how many ~~occasions~~ ANS coins were stolen by Sheldon. They were stolen at intervals and no one knows which coins were stolen at any given time. How can a value be assigned to an unknown date and how can interest run from an unknown date. Present value was then only choice and the sound choice for the court to make/. the

p. 21 Having a belief that switching rumors have substance is entirely different from having facts of a theft sufficient to do something. The inventory of ~~1874~~ 1974 had the same problem and used "not the Clapp coin" in the hope of obtaining facts. It is too dangerous to accuse anyone of stealing or of having stolen coins

JOEL J. OROSZ
4300 OLD FIELD TRAIL
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49008

February 13, 1999

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

I received your letter of February 8 today, but regret that I will be unable to fully answer it until early March. I leave with my family for a two-week Florida vacation tomorrow morning, so I will not have time to review the "Riches of Coins" CD before I go; nor does my destination in Florida have a CD-Interactive player, so I cannot take it along.

Soon after my return on March 1, however, I will play it again, and take an exact transcription of what you said about the two pieces in question. To be fair to all involved, I will share the transcription with both you and Mike Hodder.

I will leave it to you to decide whether to respond after you have seen the transcription. I'll be in touch.

Happy Valentine's day!

Best regards,

Joel J Orosz

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Joel J. Orosz
4300 Old Field Trail
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

February 23, 1999

Dear Joel:

I hope you luxuriated in Florida. My wife and I have never stayed in Florida, Palm Springs, Santa Fe, etc. for a winter vacation. We are truly deprived.

As to my inquiry about the tapes it is too trivial to go into any further. Please drop the matter and spend your time on worthwhile numismatic research.

I enjoyed the final form of your coin theft article and filed your original draft with the published form.

My best,

Eric P. Newman

Phone: 212/234-3130
Fax: 212/234-3381
E-mail: Info@AmNumSoc.Org

THE·AMERICAN·NUMISMATIC·SOCIETY
(FOUNDED 1858 · INCORPORATED 1865)
BROADWAY·AT·155TH·STREET
NEW·YORK·N.Y. 10032

October 31, 2003

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

I was wondering if you would be so kind as to be a reader of a manuscript submitted to the ANS for publication. We are hoping that you could let us know if you believe the manuscript, that we would like to send to you, is suitable as for the ANS publication - *American Journal of Numismatics*. The manuscript is titled: *George Washington, Adam Eckfeldt, John A. McAllister, Jr., And the True Documentation for America's "Small Beginning" in Coinage: The 1792 Half Dismes.* If are agreeable to this I will forward the manuscript to you at once. We would welcome your comments and notations regarding the submitted publication.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your reply by phone, fax or email.

Sincerely,

Joanne D. Isaac
Museum Administrator
The American Numismatic Society
t. 212-234-3130 x 217
f. 212-234-3381
Isaac@amnumsoc.org

Subj: **Request to be a reader**
Date: 11/7/2003 5:28:01 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: isaac@numismatics.org

Dear Joanne: I will be glad to read a manuscript on the 1792 Halfdisme. It sounds very interesting. Eric

Phone: 212/234-3130
Fax: 212/234-3381
E-mail: Info@AmNumSoc.Org

THE·AMERICAN·NUMISMATIC·SOCIETY
(FOUNDED 1858 · INCORPORATED 1865)
BROADWAY·AT·155TH·STREET
NEW·YORK·N.Y. 10032

November 10, 2003

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Thank you for agreeing to be a reader for the ANS. Enclosed is the manuscript under consideration for the *American Journal of Numismatics,* titled: *George Washington, Adam Eckfeldt, John A. McAllister, Jr., And the True Documentation for America's "Small Beginning" in Coinage: The 1792 Half Dismes..*

When you have finished with any comments and notations you may have on the manuscript, please return it to my attention.

If you have any questions, or if I can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Most sincerely,

Joanne D. Isaac
Museum Administrator
The American Numismatic Society
t. 212-234-3130 x 217
f. 212-234-3381
Isaac@amnumsoc.org

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Nov. 23, 2003

Ms. Joanne D. Isaac
American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 155th St.
New York, NY 10032

Dear Joanne:

In accordance with your Nov. 10, 2003 request I have read and reread the manuscript submitted by you to us relating to the U.S 1792 Half dismes. It is the result of an enormous amount of research work. At this time I am glad to make a few comments.

1. There is no direct statement as to whether the records of the Treasury Department or other US body show or did not show any reimbursement payment to Washington for silver or payment for other silver at the time of Half disme coinage. If no records exists this supports the furnishing of silver by Washington or other private source. If Washington, it supports his right to distribute the coinage as he saw fit.

2. At the time of striking Half dismes the April 2, 1792 Mint Act was in force requiring the U.S coinage of Half dismes to weigh 20.8 grains and to be 892.4 fineness. If the silver in the Half dismes of 1792 have a different weight or fineness that would indicate they were trial pieces and not official coinage and were "patronized by the President"

3. A report of the weight and fineness of one or more Half dismes should be included in the study. Non destructive tests might show the silver to be 925 fine sterling if Washington's sterling silver plate or cutlery was used without adulteration. If Spanish dollars were used without or with adulteration the fineness could be important. These tests are essential and may take further time.

4. Any discrepancy between the 1500 coin total and the 100 dollars worth of silver might be explained as normal due to planchet cutting, spoilage and scissel. When planchets are cut from rolled silver or hammered silver sheet or strips the remaining scissel can be 50% to 60% of the original sheet or strip weight. In a normal minting facility where there was extra silver on hand the scissel would be remelted, recast and rerolled to make new sheet or strip for another cut out of planchets. If there was no extra silver available for Half dismes one remelt of scissel would produce enough sheet or strip to make the total planchet weight (50% plus 25% or 75% of the original silver on hand) in the first instance and 40% plus 24% or 64% of the original silver on hand in the second instance. Whether another remelt would be undertaken I have no idea, but the Harper shop might not have been equiped to handle several remeltings. It could seem that some scrap silver must have remained and this could account for the discrepancy between 1500 and 2000 pieces of coinage.

5. William E. Du Bois is described as "unreliable" on page 24 en footnote 43 and on page 26 it is stated that his "credibility did not measure up to that of his father-in-law." I find these allegations, without specific support and unnecessary. I feel that Pledges of History and the other writings of Du Bois, his career as an assayer, etc and the statement that he "captures the essential facts" (p.26), etc. indicate adequate competence.

6. For clarity the content of the letter dated 9 July 1792 from Washington to Rittenhouse might proceed the text of Jefferson's Household Account Book of 13 July 1792 (p.37)

7. It is asserted that Crosby "fudged" (p.32). This does not seem justified particularly when the authors describe his work as "magisterial" (p.31).

8. It can be asserted by some that the article seems to set up a straw man and then proves it is legitimate. Others can say that the article proves nothing really new. These possibilities should not influence the writers from presenting their facts, their speculations and any solutions as this will be very exciting to many now and in the future.

9. The title needs to go on a diet. It is the same as two French cities, Toulon and Toulouse.

10. I would like to read any revision if you wish my further thoughts.

11. You may relay my thoughts to the authors, either with or without my name depending on your procedure. I merely want to see a thoroughly researched article presented to the public through AWS.

Sincerely

Eric P. Newman

Subj: **Half Disme article**
Date: 11/29/2003 8:00:12 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: ISAAC@AMNUMSOC.ORG

Dear Joanne:
I received your info that the fax covering my comments did not arrive clearly. So this time I sent them upside down so that there is a better chance of combining the faxes if that becomes necessary.
I had no secretary and in the interest of time I wrote mine out. If there is any problem I will have them typewritten. I hope I have been helpful. Are there other readers involved and if so may I contact them after they have sent in their preliminary comments and you decide whether to tell me who they are? Eric P. Newman

Your investment helps boost the student up to see over the mountains, to understand that over here on the Cumberland College campus is the opportunity for a youngster to become a medical doctor rather than the recipient of free medical care.

Over here on the college campus is the opportunity to become a teacher or engineer rather than spending life back in a mountain digging coal.

I know this to be true because I've seen it here at Cumberland.

These students are academically qualified but need a little financial boost to achieve God given dreams.

They realize the way up and the way out of poverty is through the self help kind of education offered through the work program here at Cumberland.

And work they do. Carrying a full academic load while working isn't easy, never has been, never will be, but it develops character.

Even a modest gift can help a youngster stay in school and be the first in the family to ever graduate. Talent so often springs up in the most unlikely places.

Like the fictional young Waltons who lifted themselves out of inherited poverty by higher education and hard work, your gifts are doing the same for real-life Waltons here at Cumberland College.

If you could help by sending a special gift in the amount of $100.00, I'll assign a specific student to receive it, and send you a picture and progress report on the student selected to receive your help.

My request is for a helping hand. As you know, ours is no frills nothing fancy type of educational opportunity.

Thank you for your loyalty and your help. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jim Taylor

Jim Taylor
President

JT/je

P.S. Your gift will make all the difference by changing lives and saving lives. By the way I should mention that Patricia Neal, featured in the original Waltons Christmas Story, was raised in Packard, Kentucky, no much more than a stone's throw from our campus.

Subj: **Lewis & clark, and 1792 half dismes**
Date: 12/3/2003 12:44:40 PM Central Standard Time
From: isaac@numismatics.org
To: Ericnumis@aol.com

Hi Mr. Newman,

Re: Lewis & Clark - thanks so much for your quick response. I'll send the invitation and Ute's note to you. We have lent the Missouri History Museum 4 objects for the exhibition:
1949.52.1A Jefferson Peace Medal
And 3 of a boxed set-gift of J.P. Morgan
1915.139.1 - Woman spinning
1915.140.1 - figure of a man sowing wheat
1915.141.1 - cow licking calf/sheep/man watching
You can, of course, see these on our website, but I will also send you a print out for your reference as well.

Per your request, Richard Doty was the other reader for the article on 1792 half dismes. Following is his response to it (see first and last paragraphs of his remarks). Also in his email, he is commenting on another article submitted to the AJN "Two Notes On Early Counterstamps in the US", which as you can see he did not react to favorably.

Ute mentioned to me that if you want to discuss your comments with the authors of the article on 1792 half dismes, that would be okay too.

Thank you again.
Joanne

------ Forwarded Message
From: "Richard Doty" <dotyr@nmah.si.edu>
Date: Tue, 18 Nov 2003 14:03:35 -0500
To: <Isaac@amnumsoc.org>
Subject: Two articles

Dear Joanne,

I just finished reading the article on 1792 half dismes. I'll get to it in a minute, but I want to address the one on countermarks first.

This paper would, in my opinion, require more rewriting than it's worth. There are no footnotes, there is only a vague genuflection to source citation, and the author appears to have gotten his mastery over the comma out of a kit, whose date of expiration had long passed.

It's an odd article. There's a good deal of very detailed information - but nothing in particular to back it up. A series of digressions (including the origin of the phrase 'ridden out of town on a rail') have little to do with the general sence of the narrative.

This author also leaps to conclusions with little or no corroborative evidence. For example, he states that 'We do not find any record of Lewis Fueter receving any land grant or money for any losses he might have suffered [from the insurgents] during the Revolution. This fact implies that he ... remained in New York City during the [British] occupation ...

'Now that it has been established that he never left New York during the War...

Now wait a minute!

The odd breathing space between one person (Fueter) and two others (the firm of Fletcher & Gardiner), where a bibliography of sorts breaks the monotony, is another problem.

Frankly, you do not need this article, which I think of as Sewell Menzel writ small.

But I hope you run the other one. It is, simply, excellent - capably, even elegantly written, a most successful effort to set the recond straight concerning a formative period of our numismatic experience. Frankly, except a a concluding period on page 46, I wouldn't add or subtract anything.

I wish I'd written it myself.

------ End of Forwarded Message

Subj: **Half disme**
Date: 12/3/2003 5:29:47 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: DotyR@NMAH.SI.EDU

Dear Dick: I asked Joanne Isaac of ANS who the other readers were for the article on the above subject and she told me you were the only other one. The authors did an enormous amount of work. I read it many times to study its thrust and interpretations. I wrote a comment to send to the authors. I want to talk to you about it after you think about it some more. I do not wish to write out certain thoughts until I discuss them with you.
The main items in my comments were:
1. They did not say whether any treasury records show any purchase of silver from Washington or anyone else,
2. They did not say whether any treasury records show the transfer of any of the coined dismes through anyone, only that Jefferson as Secy of State (not the Treasury department) ended up with 1500 pieces.
3. They did not test whether the half dismes were .925 fine as sterling silver would be if it was from silver service or cutlery. Perhaps they adulterated the silver by adding copper.
4. If there was $100 worth of silver turned over by Washington for coinage there would be much less in coins because unless they had additional silver to add the scissel would have to be melted and the scrap cast and rerolled several times,
Please think about these matter
A very happy holiday to you. Please call me. Eric

Subj: **Re: Half disme**
Date: 12/5/2003 9:34:18 AM Central Standard Time
From: dotyr@nmah.si.edu
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Dear Eric,

Points taken, especially the last one. The problem is that Isaacs had given me TWO to read, and that was the second. The first, on two counterstamps, was so flat-out horrible that the second one, I fear, got vetted by me mainly on the grammar and writing style - and those, I think you'll agree, were quite good.

What I would suggest is that the authors check on any surviving records from the Treasury. I am hunching they won't find any, and the National Archives are in such a mess now that they'll have their work cut out for them. But it's still worth a try.

Other than that, if they were to stick in a caveat that more research is needed and may well alter the argument, I think the ANS could run it as is. It really is a decent piece of work, and as you pointed out, an immense amount of labor went into it.

Happy Holidays to you and Evelyn, the family, and all. Saluti!

Dick

>>> <EricNumis@aol.com> 12/03/03 06:29PM >>>
Dear Dick: I asked Joanne Isaac of ANS who the other readers were for the article on the above subject and she told me you were the only other one. The
authors did an enormous amount of work. I read it many times to study its thrust
and interpretations. I wrote a comment to send to the authors. I want to talk
to you about it after you think about it some more. I do not wish to write

out certain thoughts until I discuss them with you.
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1. They did not say whether any treasury records show any purchase of silver
from Washington or anyone else,
2. They did not say whether any treasury records show the transfer of any of
the coined dismes through anyone, only that Jefferson as Secy of State (not

the Treasury department) ended up with 1500 pieces.
3. They did not test whether the half dismes were .925 fine as sterling silver would be if it was from silver service or cutlery. Perhaps they adulterated

the silver by adding copper.
4. If there was $100 worth of silver turned over by Washington for coinage

there would be much less in coins because unless they had additional silver to
add the scissel would have to be melted and the scrap cast and rerolled several
times,
Please think about these matter
A very happy holiday to you. Please call me. Eric

Subj: **Half Disme**
Date: 12/5/2003 8:18:20 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel: I have received permission from ANS to write to you about the above article that you and Herkowitz submitted for publication by ANS. ANS carefully eliminated your names from the heading but since you used both names in the text I became informed nevertheless. I told ANS that I had no objection if they submitted my preliminary comments as a reader directly to you. Were they sent to you or not? I do not have the Email address of Herkowitz and will appreciate that. Also telephone and mailing addresses of both of you.
I am fully aware of the quantity of work you put into the project and the zeal with which you attacked it. One of the comments I made was that the fineness of the pieces was not indicated, whether they were .892 or .925 fine or otherwise. I wanted to inform you that at the Boston C 4 convention in November there was a non - destructive instant metal content tester available for the attendees. I do not know whether it penetrated or was surface only but either would be satisfactory if the machine is accurate. The presenters were Volker Thomsen and Debbie Schatzlein of the Niton Corporation of Billerica, Massachusetts. I do not know them.
Please let me know how you may wish me to proceed as I realize that what you have accomplished is important and I want to give as much help as I can.
Have a wonderful holiday. Eric.
Eric P. Newman, 6450 Cecil Ave., St. Louis, MO 63105
Tel 314-727-0850, Fax 314-727-0820

Subj: **Re: Half Disme**
Date: 12/5/2003 11:21:54 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric,

Your deductive powers are as sharp as ever! Indeed, Carl Herkowitz and I co-authored the McAllister article. I appreciate very much your offer to help, and accept enthusiastically. I have not heard anything from the ANS since I sent the article in for review several months ago, so I have not yet received your comments. I will ask David Yoon to send me a copy immediately.

You raise an important point about the fineness of the half dismes, one that frankly had not occurred to us. According to Logan and McCloskey's *Federal Half Dimes, 1792-1837,* "The original Morris bill specifying designs, inscriptions and weights was amended by Congress and signed into law by President George Washington on April 2, 1792. This law specified that half dismes be struck from .8924 fine silver with a diameter of 17.5 mm and a weight of 20.8 grains." Neither Carl nor I has had access to a genuine 1792 half disme for testing to confirm the validity of this statement. If we can track one down, the non-destructive testing technique you mentioned from the Niton Corporation would provide an ideal method to confirm the fineness.

Now, our coordinates:

Joel--
4300 Old Field Trail
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
269/372-3366 (ph)
269/372-4916 (fax)
Joelorosz@aol.com

Carl--
13319 North Norfolk
Detroit, MI 48235
248/408-2992
(No fax)
(No e-mail)

We will eagerly look forward to reading your comments, and I will be in touch thereafter to glean as much help from you as we can. Thanks so much for your advice and counsel, and a happy holiday season to you and yours.

Thanks,

Joel

Subj: **Half disme**
Date: 12/6/2003 2:01:46 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
Your 12/5/03 message is at hand. Please let me know whether you receive from Yoon or Isaac a copy of my 11/23/03 letter to ANS on the subject. I prefer that procedure instead of my taking the matter up with you authors directly at this time even though I have ANS permission to do so.

I I find that the weight of the half disme conforms to the Mint Act of 4/2/1792. The diameter is apparently correct but the fineness is what must be checked. My collection piece is at the bank vault but there are many others available for a test. What I did not include in my letter is that Thomas Jefferson was the Secretary of State at that time and he would normally not have received the coins unless Washington so instructed the coiners, as Alexander Hamilton was Secretary of the Treasury and his department would have been responsible for official matters as to coinage. This strengthens the trial or semiprivate issue thesis.
There are also other matters I will comment upon in due course. Your article really stimulated me to think about this strange situation. I believe I will enjoy trying to help.
Please tell me more about Mr. Carl Herkowitz and send him a copy of this message if you wish.
A happy holiday to you. Eric

Subj: **Re: Half disme**
Date: 12/6/2003 10:47:19 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

I am very pleased that you are willing to help Carl and me in improving our article. I have e-mailed David Yoon at the ANS, and asked him to send me a copy of your letter--will certainly keep you informed as to his response.

Do you suppose that the ANS would be willing to check the fineness of their 1792 half disme for us?

Your point about the peculiarity of Jefferson, rather than Hamilton, receiving the coins is intriguing. I have a vague memory of reading long ago that Washington had made Jefferson responsible for the Mint to mollify him during Hamilton's brilliant early run as Secretary of the Treasury--I will try to find the reference. In any case, it would seem that the unusual choice of departments to which the coins were delivered would strengthen the thesis of semiprivate delivery.

Carl Herkowitz is a rather eccentric fellow in his mid-50s. He has won a couple of Heath Literary Awards for his past contributions to *The Numismatist,* but he is less a scholar and more a gifted seeker of the rare and curious. He simply has a nose for significant finds, in a number of collecting fields. He will be delighted to learn of your interest, and will welcome your assistance as much as do I. I will share your messages with him.

I am looking forward to reading your letter, and to working with you on this exciting project!

Thanks,

Joel

Subj: **Re: Half disme**
Date: 12/7/2003 7:01:05 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Eric:

I have tracked down the source of my dim memory about Washington's decision to place the Mint under the care of the Secretary of State (Jefferson), rather than the more logical placement under the Secretary of the Treasury (Hamilton).

On p. 73 of *The U.S. Mint and Coinage,* Don Taxay quotes a letter from President Washington to Thomas Jefferson, dated October 20, 1792, in which Washington essentially says that since the Post Office was given to Treasury, he is giving the Mint to State. This, of course, was more than three months after Jefferson took delivery of the half dismes.

Taxay, however, also on p. 73, makes reference to (but does not quote) a letter from one John Mitchell to Jefferson, dated September 23, 1791, and based on the contents of this letter, Taxay comments "It appears that as early as May, 1791 Washington had decided to give supervision of the Mint to Jefferson though logically it had no connection to the State Department."

So it appears from the Washington letter that his decision was based on a desire to even out the workload of his various departments (and possibly to mollify Jefferson, who seems to have been highly interested in matters relating to coinage). If Taxay's interpretation about Washington's intention is correct, therefore, it would appear as if the somewhat surprising decision to place the Mint under the State Department was made well before the 1792 half dismes were struck. It seems, then that this decision by Washington does not support the semiprivate issue thesis. Drat!

I will be in touch as soon as I get your letter.

Best regards,

Joel

Subj: **Re: Half disme**
Date: 12/7/2003 8:00:54 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel: I believe that Jefferson was involved with mint matters because of his European contacts and experience. I think he was the one who tried to hire Droz. He was the one who turned down the purchase of copper coinage from English suppliers if my memory is correct. Nevertheless I believe the Treasury Department had to account for the distribution of coin and the money accounts, even though Jefferson might have been in charge of mint operations. There must be records available. Stewart has some early records in the appendix of his book. Somebody had to make an official report and that should be sought. The matter is important to your subject and needs study. Eric

Subj: **Re: Half disme**
Date: 12/10/2003 10:56:19 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Eric,

David Yoon was kind enough to send me a summary of your questions and concerns about the article. I have shared that, and your other correspondence, by mail with Carl Herkowitz (by mail because Carl does not have e-mail access). I will give a quick response to each of your points.

1. I have checked the register of the records of the Philadelphia Mint in the National Archives Philadelphia branch. Regrettably, the "register of certificates of silver bullion deposited for coinage" did not commence until 1794, the same year that the "register of silver and gold bullion and coins" was begun. The "statistics on coinage" also began in 1794. The only hope lies in record group 1, in which the "general correspondence" begins in 1792 (this record group also includes miscellaneous "vouchers, receipts, drafts, and orders for coins)." I will examine this record group in hopes of finding something pertinent. I will also check to see if there might be Department of the Treasury records from 1792 stored elsewhere.

2. I have asked David Yoon about the fineness of the ANS specimen of the 1792 half disme. Carl Herkowitz is asking the ANA Museum about the fineness of their specimen. I hope we will have a couple of pieces of data soon.

3. I blush to admit that I hadn't considered spoilage as a factor in a 75% scenario. I will certainly add this into the narrative, with proper credit to you as having suggested it.

4. The pejorative references to Du Bois and Crosby will be removed, although I will say to you off the record that Du Bois deserves censure for his fast-and-loose attitude toward the facts.

5. I agree that we got carried away on the title--that can be easily slimmed down.

My biggest concern has to do with the ANS's new note style. Unbeknownst to me, the ANS abandoned footnotes this year, going to an in-text notes style. They want the paper rewritten to conform to this style, but I have pleaded with David to have this paper grandfathered. I do not relish the extra work and expense involved in completely rewriting more than eighty notes, and I frankly don't know what could be done with the material in the footnotes that fits well there, but which would not fit into the text. So, If you would second my motion to grandfather this article with footnotes, I would be eternally grateful.

Heck, Eric, I'm already eternally grateful for the close reading and the thoughtful suggestions you have already brought to the table. And we look forward to being able to pick your brain on this fascinating topic as we whip the article into shape for publication.

I'll be in touch as we progress.

Thanks,

Joel

Subj: **Re: Half disme**
Date: 12/11/2003 11:32:13 AM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel: I am glad you obtained my original letter to ANS and that you outlined some of your further thinking for me.
Stewart indicated that Voight's first account book was lost but had been seen in about 1884 by Evans, etc. (Stewart, page 75). Perhaps you can now locate it. I see that there are references in Stewart to the Half Disme on pp. 23, 91, 200 and 204.
I raised a question about the source of silver for the 1792 half dismes and I want to read the procedure required under the April 2, 1792 Act for bringing silver to the Mint for coinage. I have the full text of the Act in my library at the Washington University but I cannot get to it for a few days. If Washington brought in silver for conversion into coin it would be his silver which was to be returned. It should have been entered on some bullion record
nevertheless. It seems reasonably clear that there was no other silver on hand. The Mint then bought copper for its own use but not silver. Jefferson being in charge of Mint operations would logically therefore end up with the half dismes and give them to and/or distribute them for Washington as Washington wished. All of this supports Washington as furnishing the silver as there is no suggestion or evidence that Jefferson furnished it.
I am glad you are trying to find out the fineness of the half dismes.
I certainly did not mean to cause you so much extra work but since the article submitted to ANS was important in my opinion I wanted to clarify portions I felt might be helpful.
Eric

Subj: **(no subject)**
Date: 12/12/2003 5:51:01 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel: I checked the April 2, 1792 Mint Act and Section 14 provides that any person may bring gold or silver bullion to the Mint for coinage and that the Mint shall assay the bullion and as soon as possible return coins of equal weight in the same metal free of expense. If immediate exchange was desired there was a charge of one half of one per cent. The Treasury was to furnish coins for an immediate exchange. In the beginning you had to wait because there was no immediate exchange possible.
This shows that any bullion or plate brought in belonged to an outsider and the outsider would get back the coins which were minted with the silver.
This strengthens your position tremendously as the Mint had no other silver. Salvage silver would have been returned as there was no provision as to any loss. Obviously there was a delay from the time the bullion was brought in from the outside to the delivery of the coinage.
We hope this helps. Eric

Subj: **Re: Half disme**
Date: 12/12/2003 10:30:09 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

No need to apologize for your suggestions--they are immensely helpful. My concern was about the change in the ANS citation style, but I have since worked out a compromise with David Yoon that will allow us to make necessary changes without completely rewriting every citation.

Thanks very much for your suggestion about Voight's first account book--I shall look for it. I appreciate, as well your looking into the text of the Mint Act of April 2, 1792.

Your scenario for the possible source of the silver makes sense, provided that the language of the Mint Act allows for the person supplying the silver to get the coinage in return.

I'll look forward to learning what you discover in the Act.

Thanks,

Joel

Subj: **Re: (no subject)**
Date: 12/12/2003 11:19:19 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

Does this ever help! It certainly does strengthen the position we have taken, for as you say, there seems to have been no other silver on hand at the Mint in the summer of 1792. And, since the Mint act makes provision for return of the equal weight in the same metal free of expense, if Washington indeed brought the bullion in, the coins would be returned to him as the owner.

Your point about the delay from the time the bullion was brought in to the time it was assayed and struck is important. I will need to go back further in Washington's schedule in 1792, per Baker's book, to see when Washington was at Mount Vernon, and when in Philadelphia. This might allow us to pinpoint a probable time of deposit of the bullion.

I did not quite understand the significance of one of your statements, namely: "Salvage silver would have been returned as there was no provision as to any loss." By this do you mean that if Washington presented the Mint with bullion, he would have gotten the same value back? If so, how does this square with the discrepancy between Eckfeldt's report of $100 worth of bullion, and Jefferson's receipt of $75 in coins?

Eric, your ideas and facts are opening new windows for us. We are very grateful for your generosity in helping us.

Joel

I

Subj: **Re: (no subject)**
Date: 12/13/2003 2:10:00 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel: I will try to answer your question as to what I mean when I say that Washington must have gotten back any salvage.
The Mint Act says that the silver depositor is to get back the same weight of silver as was submitted for coining. This means that the Mint would suffer and expected to suffer the loss of silver in assaying, melting, rolling and planchet cutting. Because this was the first silver coinage nothing more could be returned to Washington than the coins and possibly any salvage of scrap from the preparation. Washington naturally would have been willing to absorb the loss as sterling silver items he presented for coinage were probably donated to him as president. The Mint was also was required by Section 17 of the Mint Act to preserve at least 3 examples for annual testing by several officials and that would reduce what Washington or Jefferson received if it had been complied with.
All I am trying to show is that there is logic to support turning in $100 in silver and getting back $75 in coin plus the left over scrap if he took it, the actual loss and the coins withheld for testing or for souvenirs for the artists, die cutters and coiners.
It is also possible that some of his silver might have been used for the silver center cents with and without the center plug and the dimes, assuming they were made about the same time.
I hope these comments clarify things a little. I am glad you are going to check up on the other matters. I know you are pleased that the footnote matters are being adjusted. Eric

Subj: **Re: (no subject)**
Date: 12/13/2003 11:23:21 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Eric:

Thanks so much for this full explanation--I now understand exactly what you meant. It certainly is logical that there would be a 25% reduction between the amount of silver presented and the actual face value of coinage returned, when one considers the amount like lost to scrap, souvenirs, and testing. It seems particularly likely that the rate of wastage would be high, considering the fact that this was the Mint first attempt at coinage.

I am intrigued by the idea that some of the leftover silver may have been used for the silver center cents. If the Mint had no other silver at the time, this would only be logical. It does make finding Voigt's first account book all the more important!

Thanks again. I'll be in touch as our rewriting progresses.

Joel

Subj: **Re: (no subject)**
Date: 12/13/2003 11:23:21 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Eric:

Thanks so much for this full explanation--I now understand exactly what you meant. It certainly is logical that there would be a 25% reduction between the amount of silver presented and the actual face value of coinage returned, when one considers the amount like lost to scrap, souvenirs, and testing. It seems particularly likely that the rate of wastage would be high, considering the fact that this was the Mint first attempt at coinage.

I am intrigued by the idea that some of the leftover silver may have been used for the silver center cents. If the Mint had no other silver at the time, this would only be logical. It does make finding Voigt's first account book all the more important!

Thanks again. I'll be in touch as our rewriting progresses.

Joel

Subj: **Disme**
Date: 12/19/2003 10:34:16 AM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: LOUIS.E.JORDAN.1@ND.EDU

Dear Lou: Do you have any information as to the origin of the word DISME prior to the use of it in the April 2, 1792 Mint Act? I would be most interested in your comments.
A happy holiday to you. Eric (Eric P. Newman)

Subj: **DISME**
Date: 12/19/2003 12:38:25 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: LOUIS.E.JORDAN.1@ND.EDU

Dear Lou: What I am primarily interested in is whether you know of any uses or history of the above word in America after 1792 and before it was changed to DIME by the 1837 Act. Eric

Subj: **DISME and HALF DISME**
Date: 12/19/2003 1:11:33 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: KBressett@pcisys.net

Dear Ken; I have an unusual suggestion for a change in your Guide Book.
The silver 5 cent piece and the 10 cent piece were designated as a Half Disme and Disme under the April 2, 1792 Mint Act and those were their names until the 1837 Act was passed. They were not half dime or dimes from 1794 through 1836, I have found a reference in 1796 using the old fashioned names. I will be looking for others,
Whether you change major titles or put in it the text is your call. Maybe you will just write a dime novel.
Thank you for the Christmas card for Evelyn and me and may you and Bert and your offspring continue to thrive in this crazy world.
Eric

Subj: **Re: DISME and HALF DISME**
Date: 12/19/2003 1:21:27 PM Central Standard Time
From: kbressett@pcisys.net
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Eric,

Thanks for your good wishes. And, of course, we wish the same for you.

Your observation about the use of "disme" is interesting. I do not know if I dare go against tradition, but I am sure that you are correct, and some mention of this word would go well in our text for completeness and accuracy. Thank you for your thoroughness, and for keeping me in line. It's nice to talk over 'old dismes.'

At 02:11 PM 12/19/2003 -0500, you wrote:
>Dear Ken; I have an unusual suggestion for a change in your Guide Book.
>The silver 5 cent piece and the 10 cent piece were designated as a Half Disme
>and Disme under the April 2, 1792 Mint Act and those were their names until
>the 1837 Act was passed. They were not half dime or dimes from 1794 through
>1836, I have found a reference in 1796 using the old fashioned names. I
>will be
>looking for others,
>Whether you change major titles or put in it the text is your call. Maybe you
>will just write a dime novel.
>Thank you for the Christmas card for Evelyn and me and may you and Bert and
>your offspring continue to thrive in this crazy world.
>Eric

Kenneth Bressett
P.O. Box 60145
Colorado Springs, CO 80960
kbressett@pcisys.net

Subj: **Re: DISME and HALF DISME**
Date: 12/19/2003 5:24:40 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: kbressett@pcisys.net

Dear Ken: I want to mention that the disme reference in the April 2, 1792 Act is in two areas. It describes the structure of the actual disme and half disme coins in Section 9 and it makes the disme part of the United States money of account system in Section 20.
Now to complicate the matter further I call attention to all of the early Mint reports which list the coinage produced as Dimes and Half Dimes. As I told you it is your call but it should be mentioned somehow to avoid technical inaccuracy. The spelling and use of DIME is strictly an American novelty. Eric

Subj: **Re: DISME**
Date: 12/19/2003 5:38:32 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: ljordan@nd.edu

Dear Lou: Thank you for the attachment which I will have downloaded by my helpers.
I wanted to point out that that the Disme and Half Disme in section 9 of the April 2, 1792 Act describe the structure of the coin and then section 20 makes the disme a part of the money of account system of the United States.
The text of all of the early Mint reports covering production use the words DIME and HALF DIME. The spelling of Dime is an American invention I believe.
I have an American foreign exchange broadside circa 1796 which uses Half Disme and Disme in its text.
I thought you would have worked on this subject and I am glad it turned out that way.
My best. Eric

Subj: **Re: DISME**
Date: 12/19/2003 12:59:39 PM Central Standard Time
From: ljordan@nd.edu
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Hi Eric,

It was good to hear from you. Thanks for the clarification. I'll look into this, although right off hand I do not recall the use of disme after 1792. I did do some research for you on the use of disme before 1792. I suspect you may have already had the information but I include it as an attachment. This has the OED entry for disme (first used in 1608 in English). The OED entry for dime (first used in 1377). I also included the use of disme in French sources (there are only 8 occurrences, all in the 1500s and 1600s. I included the French as i suspect the word disme may be French in origin. Then a few references from Jefferson who uses dime. Let me know if you cannot open the attachment.

I'll check in post 1792 uses on Monday.

Happy holidays,

Lou

Subj: **Half disme matter**
Date: 12/19/2003 8:08:58 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel: On p.37 of your ms. you quote Jefferson's account book as using the spelling HALF DISMES. Taxay on p. 70 quotes it as HALF DIMES. It is very important to check this matter. Please let me know the correct quote.
I have been working on the spelling of the word DISME after the several uses of it in the April 2, 1792 Act. I find that the early US Mint reports used DIME. What post-1792 spellings do you know about?
You authors have given me great pleasure in thinking about the subject. I may even have to find a sleeping pill because of it.
Eric

Subj: **Re: Half disme matter**
Date: 12/19/2003 9:08:35 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

I am embarrassed to say that the "disme" in the manuscript on p. 37 is there due to an error in transcription on my part. I will make sure that it is corrected immediately.

You raise a fascinating question with regard to the spelling of "disme." I do not, offhand, recall seeing that spelling used in any connection except those directly relating to the 1792 half disme. I just checked the book in my library that is closest in time to the issue of the half dismes, Samuel Sower's 1793 first American edition of *The Federal or New Ready Reckoner*. Indeed, Sower consistently uses "dime." Have you found any later references to "disme" in the literature that do not pertain specifically to 1792 half dismes?

Now, I'd like to give you a progress report. While the ANS 1792 half disme is currently impounded in the Federal Reserve exhibition, I have a message in to Bob Hoge asking if the weight and fineness are recorded in Museum's accession or cataloguing records. Carl is exploring the same question at the ANA. In addition, Carl has tracked down a dealer friend with a VF half disme in inventory, who might be willing to have the coin tested. I have found the Niton corporation on the web, and know the exact description of the equipment that can do the nondestructive testing. If we cannot get the information from the ANS or ANA, we will explore testing the dealer's piece with the Niton equipment (however, if Niton insists on our purchasing the equipment rather than "renting" it, this could impose an impediment in our plans).

I have been quite active in trying to track down Voight's first account book. Wayne Homren will shortly publish a plea for information in the *E-Sylum*. Frank Campbell and Nancy Green tell me it is not in either of their institution's libraries. It is not catalogued as part of the collection of the Library Company of Philadelphia, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the American Philosophical Society, or the Free Library of Philadelphia. Nor is it in the large Mint collection at the National Archives Philadelphia branch. Dave Bowers, George Kolbe, Craig Sholley, Scott Rubin, Karl Moulton, and John Kraljevich all say they have not heard of it turning up. I will soon track down Bob Julian to ask him. Dave has suggested I contact Thomas D. Rogers, Sr., a retired Mint engraver, who is aware of a small cache of Mint documents in private hands in Philadelphia. I will try to track him down. Can you think of other individuals or institutions whom I should contact?

I am rewriting now, and will, I hope, have the next draft ready for you to review shortly after the first of the year. If I could impose upon you to review the rewritten portions for accuracy before I send the entire manuscript to David Yoon, I would greatly appreciate it.

And now, perhaps I have written so much that there will be no need for that sleeping pill!

Warm regards,

Joel

Subj: **Re: Half disme matter**
Date: 12/20/2003 3:31:44 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel: In answer to your 12/19/03 communication I have both a Sower 1792 in German (Sauer) and in English (Sower) and will check my German one.
Have you ever seen the word DIME written anywhere prior to the Jefferson household account book entry? Is there any way to check the original ms. as the Jefferson Papers could have made a spelling mistake or the handwritten entry could have been unclear or misread?
Niton was doing its tests without charge and probably would do one more coin free. It may only test the surface and that is why it may be unacceptable for ancient coins and for coins which might be plated or dipped. It is OK for your purposes.
The post-striking printed word DISME I am aware of is in an American 1796 foreign exchange broadside in my collection. I know of no other American DISME spellings except in the 1792 Mint Act, Washington's announcement, and coin book descriptions.
Eric.

Subj: **Dime**
Date: 12/21/2003 11:14:44 AM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
Since you have now determined that Jefferson used the word DIME in middle 1792 I wonder if this is the first known use of that spelling as a denomination of money or otherwise in America. I have not looked into whether it was previously used in Europe. This situation might make a small interesting addition to your article.
I have looked in my modest American almanac collection and note that the word is spelled DIME in the 1794 and 1797 issues I have.
Eric

Subj: **Re: Half disme matter**
Date: 12/22/2003 2:02:51 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel: I suggest that you check the Jefferson Papers which I hope has the account book detail. If not try to check the original account book which may be complicated but it would be very important because no one seems to have spelled or used the word DIME before. Taxay must have obtained the information somewhere,
Robert Hoge of ANS told me very recently that the correspondence between Franklin Peale and the Mint uses DISME and that would be very important to know more about.
The above matters are so crucial I believe they should not be neglected.
Eric

JOEL J. OROSZ
4300 OLD FIELD TRAIL
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49008

December 23, 2003

Dear Eric:

I just read in Coin World the details of your magnificent gift to Washington University. This will place numismatics into its broader intellectual and cultural contexts for perpetuity. My hat is off to you for both your vision and your generosity.

Carl Herkowitz has asked me to send you the enclosed photographic record of a prior meeting between the two of you. The occasion was the 1987 Atlanta ANA convention, when Carl took second place in the Heath competition for his article on Henry Voigt. You may recall Carl more recently for his articles on Ard Browning in The Asylum. In any case, Carl joins me in my gratitude for all of your help on the 1792 Half Dime article.

And, Eric, allow me to close by wishing you and yours a joyous holiday season. I look forward to more of your advice and counsel in 2004!

Warm regards,

Joel

1987 Atlanta
ANA Convention

EPN
and
Carl Herkowitz

Subj: **Re: Half disme matter**
Date: 12/23/2003 11:02:45 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

I hate to write on the eve of a holiday with distressing news, but my investigations with regard to Taxay's Jefferson quote have found no basis for it. As you will recall, the quote is found on p. 71 of Taxay's *The U.S. Mint and Coinage:* "The dismes were apparently made on or before July 13, for on that day, Jefferson recorded in his household account book: "rec'd from the mint 1500 half dimes of the new coinage." The note, which is no. 17, reads: *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson,* Library of Congress collection."

I have consulted the 1792 volume of Julian P. Boyd, ed., *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, published by Princeton University. There is no such entry for July 13, or indeed, for the entire year. This particular volume was published in 1990.

I have also consulted the Jefferson Papers web site of the Library of Congress. They itemize the sources of their collection, and there is no household account book that covers the year 1792. Moreover, the search function allows one to search for individual words and exact phrases, and no phrase in the papers match the phrases in the Taxay quote.

My reluctant preliminary conclusion is that Taxay's quote is a spurious one. I need to do some more spadework before I make such a claim, however. I will attempt to contact the appropriate personnel at both Princeton and the Library of Congress to see if they can explain why Taxay's source from 1966 is nowhere to be found in late 2003. It might be possible, I suppose, that the Library of Congress had Jefferson's 1792 household account book back in 1966, but it went missing before the Jefferson Papers published their 1792 volume in 1990. If so, of course, the Library of Congress would not have it listed on their website today.

I hope that this turns out to be the case as opposed to Taxay having invented documentation. If he did invent the quote, of course, it renders moot the question of whether this was the earliest use of "dime" in the United States. It would also throw into question the timing of the issue of the half dismes--and necessitate the rewriting of a good portion of the paper.

On the issue of the dime/disme spelling, I did run across one very late use of disme: In the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Papers Series 1, General Correspondence, 1651-1827, there is a letter from Jefferson to James Monroe dated September 24, 1814. Speaking of the nation's banks, Jefferson writes: "their paper is now offered doubtingly, received by some merely from the total absence of all other medium of payment, and absolutely rejected by others; and in no case will a half disme of each be given in change."

I will keep looking for Taxay's source after the holidays, and will keep you informed of my findings. In the meantime, have a wonderful holiday!

Warm regards,

Joel

Subj: **Re: Half disme matter**
Date: 12/24/2003 11:53:32 AM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel: I understand how disturbed you must be to be unable to locate the Taxay quote of Jefferson. I can assure you that Taxay would never engage in a "whopper" (a word you use} or even a rewording as he often checked others for such abuses because he was so accurate and careful. He would never deliberately create a quote.
Did you only check 1792? It is possible that a diary or account book was covered in prior years of Boyd research and included a period beyond the first entries. I am sure tht the information is somewhere and you may know who is best to ask.
I am having a wonderful holiday with my New York and Chicago family who have come to visit. My best to you and yours. Eric

Subj: **Half Disme**
Date: 12/25/2003 10:20:03 AM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:

I believe I have Christmas cheer for you.

I noted your frustration in thinking about rewriting your article by eliminating the Taxay source of the Jefferson material as unsupportable.

I have been thinking about the matter and concluded that you can use the quote on the basis of Taxay's reliablility and protect yourself by stating that it is the source and that (if good luck does not intervene) the original records probably have been mislaid, misfiled or lost; that the originals of similar items in many situations were examined by scholars and cannot now be located; that recently a group of long lost records were found in the US Capitol basement; and there is nothing known which in any way contradicts the correctness of the content of Taxay's quote.

If you look in the dedication page of Taxay's book you will see why I feel you have the right to rely on his integrety.

I cannot send this message by reindeer
but if my words are somewhat clear
It might bring to you some Xmas cheer.

Eric

Subj: **Re: Half disme matter**
Date: 12/26/2003 10:52:04 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

Thanks for the reassuring thoughts. Taxay certainly has been a reliable source in my experience, and it surprised me to be unable to verify one of his key quotes. It is probably simply the case that I haven't found the confirming evidence as of yet. Perhaps when I call the Library of Congress after the first of the year, all will be made clear.

Regarding your idea, I did check both 1791 and 1793, but I can go back and check for both 1790 and 1789, just to be sure.

In any case, thanks for the reassurance. I'm glad that you were surrounded by family during Christmas--so was I, and it does underscore what really matters in our lives.

I'll keep you informed.

Warm regards,

Joel

Subj: **Re: Half Disme**
Date: 12/26/2003 11:21:22 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

This is Christmas cheer, indeed!

Your personal experience with Taxay and willingness to vouch for his scholarly integrity is good enough for me. And, upon further reflection, it makes no more sense to think that Taxay, against all habits of careful scholarship, made up a source, than it does to think that Eckfeldt, against a lifetime of sober service, made up a story about George Washington.

I hope, of course, that I can track down Taxay's source and render all concerns moot. If I fail, however, your arguments make sense to me. Original sources, because they usually exist in only one manuscript, can easily be lost, stolen, or destroyed. Taxay no doubt saw the source in 1966--the passage of nearly 38 years provides ample time for one of the mishaps you mention to intervene.

My manuscript, much scribbled upon, goes to my typist on Saturday at noon. It will go with the Taxay reference to Jefferson's receiving the shipment on July 13 intact--I can always qualify it later, me search is unsuccessful. I will review the draft when it comes back, make corrections, then I hope to have it on its way to St. Louis for review before the year is out. There are some interesting new tidbits I've found along the way--such as an 1859 attribution by Dr. Augustine Shurtleff of the 1792 half disme as a "Washington coin," in the same class as Eccleston and Manly medals, and an 1860 Bangs, Merwin sale that offers a specimen as a "Martha Washington" half disme--the earliest such reference I have found.

Your continuing interest and assistance is not only cheering, it is a godsend! Have a wonderful new year, and I will have some interesting reading for you early in 2004.

Subj: **Half Disme**
Date: 12/31/2003 11:55:32 AM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel: Happy New Year

I paid a visit to my scarcer books and located my Der Geschwinde Rechner (Chestnut Hill, Phila. 1793) by Samuel Saur. It is in the German language and is virtually identical in content to his book in English (The Ready Reckoner by Samuel Sower in 1793) which you mentioned on 12/19/03 as containing DIME spellings.
The German text uses DIEM singular and DIEMS plural.
I thought you might wish to mention this as not everyone likes sauer kraut on New Year's Eve.
Eric

Subj: **Re: Half Disme**
Date: 12/31/2003 12:01:14 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

I love your puns! Thanks for checking on this point, and I will add a note about the orthography of dimes/dismes/diems.

Your message literally crossed in the mail with one I just sent you that vindicates both Don Taxay and your faith in him!

Happy new year, my friend!

Joel

Subj: **Re: Half Disme**
Date: 12/31/2003 12:01:14 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

I love your puns! Thanks for checking on this point, and I will add a note about the orthography of dimes/dismes/diems.

Your message literally crossed in the mail with one I just sent you that vindicates both Don Taxay and your faith in him!

Happy new year, my friend!

Joel

Subj: **Fwd: Question about a missing source**
Date: 12/31/2003 12:11:00 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Eric:

I am resending my message from earlier today, which is attached.

Thanks,

Joel

Forwarded Message:
Subj: **Fwd: Question about a missing source**
Date: 12/31/2003 11:55:18 AM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

My sincere apologies to Don Taxay for ever having doubted him! I have attached the reply to my query from Dr. Barbara B. Oberg, the General Editor of the Thomas Jefferson Papers project at Princeton University. In case you have trouble, as I frequesntly do, in opening attachments, I transcribe the text of her reply below:

Thomas Jefferson's account books are in the Second Series of the Papers of Thomas Jefferson, published by the Princeton Press in 1997 as Jefferson's Memorandum Books. The entry for July 13, 1792 is there, as you quote. I checked the photocopy of the document, which I have in my office, and it's very clearly "disme." The manuscript is at the Library of Congress. I hope this helps!

Indeed it does help, and I have written to thank Dr. Oberg. My source for the Jefferson Papers, the Grand Valley State University library, has the first Series, the correspondence, but not the second series, the memoranda books. This explains why I was not able to find the quote in the printed papers--however, why the Library of Congress does not have the source on their Jefferson papers web site is still a mystery--perhaps they haven't gotten their memoranda books catalogued on the web as of yet.

So, Taxay is vindicated in terms of the source. But you will note that the question you raised about the spelling of "dime" in the July 13, 1792 document has been settled by Dr. Oberg--Taxay did make an error here, for he renders it as "dime" when Dr. Oberg says that the original is clearly "disme." This makes sense to me--Jefferson was a francophile, and as the letter to Monroe from 1814 that I found in the LC collection demonstrates, he was still using "disme" 22 years after 1792. I will be sure to correct the spelling on that quote when I get the manuscript back from the typist.

Speaking of the manuscript, my typist is finding it slower going than anticipated--I should now have the manucript by Friday, and after making the needed changes, I hope to get it to you for review next week.

Eric, your questions continue to clarify obscure points and improve the article. Thanks so much, and happy new year!

Joel

Forwarded Message:
Subj: **Re: Question about a missing source**
Date: 12/30/2003 2:29:06 PM Central Standard Time
From: boberg@Princeton.EDU
To: Joelorosz@aol.com

Sent from the Internet (Details)

Jefferson's account books are in the Second Series of The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, published by Princeton Press in 1997 as Jefferson's Memorandum Books. The entry for July 13 1792 is there, as you quote. I checked the photocopy of the document, which I have in my office, and it's very clearly "disme". The manuscript is at the Library of Congress. I hope this helps!

Barbara Oberg, General Editor
The Papers of Thomas Jefferson
Department of History
Princeton University

Joelorosz@aol.com wrote:

> Dear Sir or Madam: I am a numismatic historian trying to prove--or
> disprove--the legend that George Washington provided the bullion from
> which the first United States coins, the 1792 half dismes, were
> struck. One of the key pieces of evidence around this story was
> quoted by the late, and highly respected, numismatic historian Don
> Taxay, in his 1966 book, The U.S. Mint and Coinage (New York: Arco
> Publishing: 1966). On page 71 of that book, Taxay says. "The dismes
> were apparently made on or before July 13, for on that day Jefferson
> recorded in his household account book: "rec'd from the mint 1500
> half dimes of the new coinage." Taxay made the following citation for
> this quote: "The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, Library of Congress
> collection." I want to see the original Jefferson handwriting to
> verify the spelling--as to whether it is "dime" or the contemporary
> "disme." However, when I tried to find the citation in the 1792
> volume of the Jefferson Papers, there was no such entry for July 13.
> I checked the Library of Congress Jefferson papers web site, and
> discovered that there is no record there of a Jefferson household
> account book. Nor does entering any of the key words from the Taxay
> quote yield any results in the search function. I will check with the
> Library of Congress as well, but I also wanted to ask you if you have
> ever heard of a Jefferson household account book for 1792? Is it
> possible that it was once in existence but has been lost or stolen?
> Taxay was a highly respected scholar, and I doubt he fabricated a
> source--but I need to find the source, or what happened to the source,
> if it is no longer with us--in order to verify this key piece of
> evidence. My e-mail is Joelorosz@aol.com. My home phone number is
> 269/372-3366. Thanks very much in advance for your
> help. Sincerely, Joel Orosz

Subj: **Re: Half Disme**
Date: 12/31/2003 2:34:56 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel: Everything you sent has been received and reviewed. I am delighted it all worked out so well. My guess is that the text in Taxay's book was a printer's typo and that Taxay had it right in the ms and the typesetter undertook to corrected it and Taxay missed the improper change when proofreading. That has happened to me. You will now rest peacefully tonight. Eric

Subj: **Re: Half Disme**
Date: 1/1/2004 1:54:32 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Eric:

I suspect you are right--terms of art like "disme" look like typos to editors who are not familiar with the subject at hand. When I correct the quotation, I will note this possibility.

You are also right on the topic of my sleeping soundly--I certainly felt much better after getting this affirmation.

I will get the revised manuscript to you as soon as I can. In the meantime, here is to a wonderful 2004 for all of us!

Joel

Subj: **Re: Review of article**
Date: 1/5/2004 12:34:50 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Joel: Please send two hard copies by mail. That will enable me to scribble on one and hold the other. It will save me time to do it that way as my copier at my home only does one page at a time.
I believe it would be worthwhile to put my very rare 1796 foreign exchange item into the text or a footnote somewhere. The item has the title "A TABLE OF THE REAL & IMAGINARY MONIES OF AMERICA, EUROPE, ASIA, and AFRICA. With the intrinsic Value of the Coin of each Country, reduced to Federal Money." It is a large broadside which is undated and has no place of publication or publisher's or printer's name. It has a blank back. "United States" coinage is listed first under the category "America". It is circa 1796 by virtue of its content of over 50 types of coinage. It uses "half disme", "half Dismes", "disme" and "Disme" with the long "s" in each instance.
It is the only American eighteenth century use of that spelling I know of other than Jefferson's account book and the legislative action of 1792 . I think that is important in view of Sower's 1793 use of dime and the almanac's I am acquainted with. Do you think GOOGLE will help as you have probably already checked it.
It is of course your decision,
Eric

Subj: **Re: Review of article**
Date: 1/5/2004 1:30:12 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Eric:

I will send you two clean copies via priority mail, tomorrow, if possible, or for sure by Wednesday.

I quite agree with you that it would be appropriate to make mention of your 1796 foreign exchange broadside. Perhaps when you review the manuscript, you could suggest an appropriate place to insert this mention.

The significant revisions of the paper do not start until page 31, so if you like, you could begin your review there.

Many thanks, Eric--I will look forward to receiving your review.

Joel

Subj: **Re: Half Disme**
Date: 1/6/2004 7:22:05 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Eric:

Thanks for the tip regarding the Mt. Vernon Silver book. I will attempt to track that down.

I have been frustrated in my efforts to determine the fineness of a 1792 half disme. The ANA Museum does not possess a specimen. The ANS Museum does, but it is in the exhibition at the New York Federal Reserve Bank, and so inaccessible for testing. I have made a couple of calls to Bob Hoge, and left messages asking if the accession or cataloguing records contain the fineness, but he has not returned my calls. I will try again in the morning. Finally, I have made a couple of calls to a dealer Carl Herkowitz knows with a VF specimen in inventory--but he hasn't called back, either. I will keep plugging at this.

Tomorrow morning I will send off the two copies of the revised manuscript to you for your review. You will note that I have a placeholder mention and footnote saying that the ANS specimen is of statutory weight and fineness. Obviously, that will come out if it proves to be untrue. I will look forward to your review of the article.

Warm regards,

Joel

Subj: **Re: Your address**
Date: 1/8/2004 6:30:52 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

Thanks for the additional information--with this, I have been ab le to find the book available on A BE, and have ordered it.

The ms. went into the Post Office, via priority mail, yesterday. I'll look forward to receiving further ideas.

Warm regards,

Joel

Subj: **News about ANS, ANA Half Dismes**
Date: 1/9/2004 10:45:30 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

I finally was able to connect with Bob Hoge on Wednesday. He was not able to be helpful regarding the ANS specimen, which is currently on exhibit at the NY Fed Bank. Nor does the ANS have any accession or cataloging records that would tell us anything about the piece's fineness.

Bob did, however, pass along one valuable piece of information. contrary to what I had been told by the ANA's Collections Manager, Eric Heikkenen, the ANA does have a 1792 half disme. Armed with this knowledge,a nd with an assist from Nancy Green, I was able to speak to Mr. Hiekkenen again, today, in which conversation he said that the coin had been misfiled, hence his error.

Mr. Heikkenen was quite helpful this time, and shared what records they have. Diameter: 16.9 mm; weight: 1.332 grams;
specific gravity of 10.25. Mr. Heikkenen then informed me that a specific gravity for silver of 10.176 is equal to .800 fine, and a specific gravity of 10.231 is equal to a fineness of .835. By this reckoning (if my rusty math skills serve), the ANA half disme, with a specific gravity of 10.25, would have a fineness of approximately .831, well below the statutory fineness of .8924.

However, since specific gravity is a ratio of the mass to water, I don't see how you can come up with the fineness of an alloyed silver coin unless you know exactly what the alloy is. Copper would giv e you one answer on fineness, tin another. Or is there a deeper wisdom I am missing here?

If we could trust the calculation of .831 fine, it would tell us that it the half disme is not sterling, which can be no more than 7.5% copper. However, it doesn't rule out Sheffield plate, which had a copper core.

Mr. Hiekkenen will look through old ANA accession records to see if he can find a fineness. I will pursure the Niton Co. to see if they will test the coin, and the ANA leadership to see if they will allow it.

Just wanted to bring you up to date on this issue!

Thanks,

joel

Subj: **Fwd: Question about a missing source**
Date: 1/9/2004 11:05:03 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

As you can see from the attached, Robert Julian raised an interesting question when I spoke to him today. Why did Jefferson record receipt of the 1500 half dismes in his personal household account book as opposed to an official government account book?

Was he holding them until Washington returned from Mount Vernon? If so, it would seem that the account book would later show an outlay of $75 to Washington. Or could the bullion have been Jefferson's, and the payment thus directly to him in his personal account? If so, there should be a previous record of a deposit of coin or bullion at the Mint.

So, I've imposed upon Ms Oberg to send me a copy of the entire household journal for 1792. If there is a small entry for one or the other at other times in the account book, perhaps Taxay missed it. At least, hope springs eternal--I'll let you know what I discover.

Many thanks,

Joel

Forwarded Message:
Subj: **Re: Question about a missing source**
Date: 1/9/2004 10:11:32 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: boberg@Princeton.EDU

Dear Barbara:

May I trouble you once more with regard to Thomas Jefferson's role regarding the 1792 half dismes?

I am puzzled as to why, if George Washington provided the silver bullion from which the half dismes were struck, the coins were recorded in Thomas Jefferson's household account book. True, Jefferson was responsible for the Mint on July 13, 1792, but if the coins came to him in an official capacity, would he not have recorded receipt in a State Department record, and not in a personal one?

I can think of two scenarios that would explain the record in the household journal. One is that Washington indeed supplied the bullion, so according to the provisions of the coinage Act of 1792, he owned the resulting coins. Washington being at Mount Vernon on July 13, 1792, Jefferson personally took delivery, and later paid out the coins (or an equivalent sum in other money) to Washington.

The other scenario is that Jefferson took personal delivery because Jefferson himself had provided the bullion.

If the source of the silver was Washington, presumably Jefferson would record a payment of $1500 to Washington later in 1792, possibly in the autumn, after the President had returned from Mount Vernon. If Jefferson was the source, perhaps there would be a notation of a payment to the Mint, or to Mint Director David Rittenhouse, or to Chief Coiner Henry Voigt, of $75-$100 in silver bullion or silver coin prior to July 13, 1792. In any case, I am eager to examine Jefferson's household journal for all of 1792.

The simple way to do this would be to consult the Second Series of the papers of Thomas Jefferson. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be a set of the Second Series in Western Michigan--Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo College, and Grand Valley State University all have Series One, but not Series Two.

I know that you are not in the direct reference business, so if you cannot do this I completely understand, but nonetheless, may I impose upon you to either look at the household account books for 1792, or mail me a photocopy of same from the Second Series, whichever is the least trouble for you? Of course, I would be happy

to pay for all expenses of research time in the first instance, or copying and mailing costs in the second. My address is 4300 Old Field Trail, Kalamazoo, MI 49008. Phone is 269/372-3366, fax is 269/372-4916.

If the source of the bullion does turn out to be TJ, it will knock 158 years of numismatic tradition about 1792 half dismes into a cocked hat! Thanks so much, Barbara, for your patience in reading this long note, and for considering this request. All the best to you.

Joel

Subj: **Correction!**
Date: 1/9/2004 11:10:27 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Eric:

Just wanted to note that I have send a message to Ms. Oberg correcting myself--under scenario one, Jefferson would send Washington $75, not $1500.

It must be the late hour--goodnight!

Thanks,

Joel

Subj: **Dizzime**
Date: 1/10/2004 1:24:22 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel: Your concerns arising from Bob Julian's comments have naturally caused much extra work on your part. I have another scenario which might calm down the matter. If Washington was at Mt. Vernon in Virginia when the half dismes were coined in Philadelphia and Pres. Washington had furnished the silver for the coinage then where was Jefferson when the silver was coined or delivered? Please let me know. The possibility is that Washington had an understanding with Jefferson that the coinage would be given away to Washington's friends and diplomatic representatives. The entry would not be made on the accounts of the State Department if friends of Washington would be given pieces. The Treasury Department had no control over Mint activities at that time and no right to the pieces. Jefferson being in charge of the Mint wanted to make a record of it somewhere and put it into his domestic account book where no offsetting record or scrutiny would be necessary. I do not know what department made records of the purchase of the real estate for the Mint and the machinery but that was a purchase with government funds, not private funds.
If nothing further is found I think Jefferson's apparent pick up of the half dismes was merely a convenience for Washington and confirms all of your other findings. Where was Jefferson that summer?
Eric

Subj: **Re: Dizzime**
Date: 1/10/2004 10:45:10 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Eric,

As usual, you raise an important question for which I do not have a ready answer. I will be able to check on it, though, by looking at the Jefferson Papers (Series 1, correspondence) at the Kalamazoo College Library. I recall from my previous inspection of the two volumes for 1792 that there were several non-numismatic notes and letters written on July 13, 1792, and I am sure that at least some of them would include the name of the city from which they were posted. I will look at the weeks both before and after July 13 to see where Jefferson was during the summer. My guess is that to avoid the brutal Philadelphia summers, as well as the ever-present threat of a yellow fever epidemic, Jefferson spent at least a part of that summer at Monticello. However, I will check to be sure.

Your third scenario as to Jefferson's possible involvement makes sense to me. It would explain why the transaction was noted in a personal, rather than a governmental, ledger and if I find no payout of $75 to Washington from Jefferson's houshold account book after July 13, 1792, it would also explain why that did not happen. Finally, if any presentation pieces were sent out by the State Department, it would explain why no transmittal notes from Washington himself are known.

You have once more proved not only a voice of wisdom, but also a calming influence--thank you. I will keep you informed of my progress, particularly on the topic of my quest for a fineness check.

With high regards and thanks,

Joel

Subj: **The quest for fineness**
Date: 1/12/2004 12:06:00 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Eric:

This morning I was able to speak with Mr. Volker Thomsen of the Niton corporation about non-destructive testing of half dismes. He said that they could not test for fineness to the level of accuracy that we need on silver. They have the reference sources and materials of known fineness for comparison to do copper, but not silver.

Mr. Thomsen referred me to Professor Charles W. Smith, of the University of Maine at Orono, with the assurance that Dr. Smith has both the expertaise and the interest in numismatics to do the testing. I was able to find Dr. Smith's e-mail address, and have inquired as to his possible interest. I'll let you know what I hear back from him.

Do you have any thoughts as to the whether we can rely on the specific gravity of the ANA piece as a diagnostic? I am somewhat skeptical, but I am interested in your view.

No word from Barbara Oberg yet. I will keep you informed on that front, as well.

Thanks,

Joel

Subj: **Dismeness**
Date: 1/12/2004 5:52:07 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
The revised text arrived and I will get to it as soon as I can. I am now overloaded with editing other stuff and gathering numismatic information for others.
Charles Smith is a friend of mine and will gladly help. Mention my name if you wish.
An accurate fineness is becoming less and less important as the existing data seems to support a compliance with the April 2, 1792 law.
I hesitate to put you to more work but you piece is so important that I want to clear up a matter that really bothers me. When was the word "disme" first used in American coinage matters? I find a conflict in the spelling between FRACTIONAL MONEY by Neil Carothers and HISTORY OF AMERICAN COINAGE by David K. Watson. Both are describing the several Board of Treasury reports of Samuel Osgood and Walter Livingston of April 8, 1786 recommending choices of action on the July 6, 1785 adopted coinage plan.
Carothers on pages 53, 58 and 60 uses disme usually in quotation marks and Watson on pages 271, 272 and 279 giving almost full text uses dime. Watson does not fully quote tables and possibly other items, They are both describing the same reports.
It seems that the written text has to be examined as an error in spelling has already shown up by you in a Taxay transcription. Each original writer uses his own spelling. I hope you agree with me that this difference in published material by fine scholars should be checked and straightened out.
If your work had not been so superb I would not be so particular but when a landmark is on the way it should cover broad unknown aspects.
Eric

Subj: **Re: Dismeness**
Date: 1/13/2004 11:56:00 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Eric:

According to the Library of Congress' online documents, both the April 8, 1786 Osgood-Livingston report and an August 8, 1786 broadside announcing the Congressional decision used "dimes" and "double dimes." These documents were taken from the Journals of the Continental Congress.

However--they were not images of the originals, but rather typescripts--and the spelling seems very modern throughout. I will go to Kalamazoo College tomorrow to check the originals to see if "dimes" is indeed correct.

Cheers,

Joel

Subj: **Re: Dismeness**
Date: 1/14/2004 7:15:15 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Eric:

I am back from the Kalamazoo College library. The good news is the the Journals of the Continental Congress match the spelling of "dime" that was used in the Internet versions of the documents for April 8 and July 12, 1786 documents that you mentioned.

The bad news is that this is not definitive--the Journals were edited by John C. Fitzpatrick from the originals in the Library of Congress. It looks to me as if Mr. Fizpatrick neatly edited all of the period spellings.

Good news on another front--Colonial Williamsburg will get me the specific gravity of its 1792 half disme. Progress!

Warm regards,

Joel

Date: Thu, 15 Jan 2004 14:36:46 -0500
From: "Charles W. Smith" <charless@maine.edu>
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows; U; Win98; en-US; rv:1.0.1) Gecko/20020823 Netscape/7.0
X-Accept-Language: en-us, en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: oroszj@gvsu.edu
Subject: alloy analysis
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; format=flowed
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
X-MailScanner: Found to be clean, Found to be clean
X-MailScanner-Information: Please contact the ISP for more information

Professor Orosz,
Sorry about the delay in responding to your e-mail of 01/12/04. This is the first week of our Spring semester....with all the start-up inertia that involves.
I think your project is both exciting and important. Unfortunately,our XRF spectrometer cannot "see" silver. It was optimized for copper and is insensitive to silver.
Let me make a few suggestions that could prove useful for your purposes.Possible sources of 1792 half dismes are ANS,ANA and the Smithsonian.I recall that ANS can do specific gravity measurements...whether they have the sensitivity to tell thedifference between 0.892 , 0.900 and 0.925 is the issue.I also recall that the Smithsonian either has an in-house XRF spectrometer or has regular access to one. I also was under the impression that Niton was working on a portable spectrometer for the noble metals...Volker Thomsen could fill you in on that.
There are two important metallurgical issues you need to be aware of : 1. When one remelts an alloy (perhaps the Washington silver was remelted to roll into sheet from which coin blanks were then punched) the remelted metal does NOT retain the composition of the original alloy. The remelted alloy will be deficient in the component metal that has the higher vapor pressure at the melting point of the alloy.In this case the copper will be preferentially driven off and the remelted alloy will be slightly richer in silver.2. XRF is a near-surface (50 to 100 microns) measurement and anything that influences the surface condition can influence the outcome of the composition determination.Thus the patinia can make a difference...the "fresher" the surface the better.Henry VIII got the nickname 'old copper nose' because the silver leached from his debased portrait shillings left a copper rich region on the points of the coin that suffered the most from circulation...which turned out to be his nose!
If I can be of any further help,please do not hesitate to ask.
Best regards,
Charles W. Smith,Ph.D.
Professor of Physics

Subj: **Fwd: alloy analysis**
Date: 01/16/2004 8:13:58 AM Central Standard Time
From: oroszj@gvsu.edu
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Eric:

I am sending this from my office e-mail account, hence the differnt address. I have attached Professor Smith's response, telling us that he is equipped to do copper, but not silver. Since neither he nor Niton is able to determine fineness, I am glad that we have the S.G. for the ANA piece, and that we will soon have one for the Colonial Williamsburg piece.

I thought you might like to see Professor Smith's cautionary notes about the difficulties inherent in determining the correct fineness. In the meantime, I will do some preliminary revising of the article this weekend, ahead of receiving your edits. Have a wonderful weekend.

Thanks,

Joel

Joel J. Orosz, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of Philanthropic Studies
Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership
Grand Valley State University
238C DeVos Center, 401 West Fulton Street
Grand Rapids, MI 49504-6431
616/331-7494 (ph)
616/331-7592 (fax)
www.gvsu.edu/philanthropy (web)
Director, Philanthropic and Nonprofit Knowledge Management Initiative
Nonprofit Good Practice Guide, www.nonprofitbasics.org
The Grantmaking School, www.grantmakingschool.org

Received: from gwise-vscan.gvsu.edu
([0.0.0.0])
by gvsu.edu; Thu, 15 Jan 2004 14:32:56 -0500
Received: from samuel.unet.maine.edu ([130.111.39.86])
by gwise-vscan.gvsu.edu (SAVSMTP 3.0.0.44) with SMTP id M2004011514333422269
for <oroszj@gvsu.edu>; Thu, 15 Jan 2004 14:33:34 -0500
Received: from osgood.unet.maine.edu (osgood.unet.maine.edu [130.111.39.64])
by samuel.unet.maine.edu (8.12.8/8.12.8) with ESMTP id i0FJWSkD028251
for <oroszj@gvsu.edu>; Thu, 15 Jan 2004 14:32:31 -0500
Received: from maine.edu (SmithLab1.umephy.maine.edu [130.111.163.86])
by osgood.unet.maine.edu (8.11.6/8.11.6) with ESMTP id i0FJV9Q10408
for <oroszj@gvsu.edu>; Thu, 15 Jan 2004 14:31:09 -0500
Message-ID: <4006EBCE.9030901@maine.edu>

Subj: **Your fine HALF DISME document**
Date: 01/20/2004 12:23:15 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel: I have had immense enjoyment reviewing your wonderful draft and feel it is a privilege to do so. I presume you are going to make some further changes on your own but I am making some suggestions which you may use or reject as you wish. Some of them are specific as to existing text and others are to insert at an appropriate spot. Some depend on future findings under pending inquires.

P.38. As to the statement about Coin World for April 1962 that few copies are saved, there is a microfilm available but adequate indices for newspapers are not generally available to researches.

P 40, line 1. Add "unless some copper was added to the melt"

P 41, Line 16. Eliminate "first presses" as there might have been only one press. Use "striking apparatus"

P 45, Line 9. Put "of the" between the numbers to avoid adjacent numbers in the text.

P.46, Lines 14-15. This might be changed to " This evidence is more clarifying than contradictory, but is not conclusive"

P.47, Line 5. Using $100 and then $75.00 should be uniform as to the use of "00" throughout the document.

P. 47, Line 19. Perhaps "fifteen or twenty percent" is too speculative. Perhaps instead of "distributed" use "given away or spent"

P. 50, Footnote 95. The word "aware" has been omitted.

If you are able to find the original text of the 1786 document in the Papers of the Continental Congress please comment on whether Disme or Dime was used. If you do not then say the printed Papers use "Dime" and "Double Dime" rather than possibly Disme and Double Disme.

Please try to check whether the original version of the April 2, 1792 bill in the Senate which was rejected by the House and changed for eventual passage had Disme or Dime in it. I think this is very important.

Mention that the spelling DIME was used in all early Mint reports and never DISME.

Mention that the spelling DISME and was used several times in the American printed circa 1796 foreign exchange broadside entitled (I gave you the title previously).

Mention that officially the word DISME was never officially changed to DIME until the Act of January 18, 1837.

Mention that there is no record or allegation of anyone that silver for the dismes or half dismes was bought for or brought to the Harper Mint from any other source than the Washington silver.

Mention that the acknowledgment of the coined half dismes was made by Jefferson when he was in Philadelphia and when Washington was in Mt. Vernon. Possibly indicate that there was a convenience to Washington in doing so.

Mention that Jefferson as Secy of State was in charge of the Mint rather than Hamilton who was Secy of the Treasury. Give the reason why Washington gave Jefferson that assignment because Jefferson was so active in early negotiations for the Mint and its personnel and knowing the French experts.

Mention that after one remelting of scissel to make further strips for planchet cutting the number of planchets produced would be about 75% of the weight of the silver so used. This is commented upon in a footnote in a new ANS book covering the Damon Douglas unfinished ms on New Jersey coppers in a footnote written by David Gladfelter where he says that if an original strip is only as wide as the planchet cut from it then the planchets will weigh 78% of the weight of the original strip. This of course is impossible but if a strip is 2 1/2 times the radius of the planchet the weight of the planchets cut out would be PI divided by 6 1/4 or about 50% and if there was a remelt then another 25 % would be added making a total of about 75% which is what Jefferson reported.

This is enough to spoil your vacation or whatever you are going away for. Ain't numismatics fun?

Eric

Subj: **Re: Your fine HALF DISME document**
Date: 01/20/2004 11:08:31 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

I cannot tell you how grateful I am that you have taken the time and made the effort to to read the manuscript so carefully and thoughtfully. I will be sure to incorporate all of these changes into the article, which will be immensely improved thereby. In fact, I will take it along on my weekend trip to Chicago--my long-suffering wife, Florence, is used to this eccentricity of mine by now.

As you suggest, I will be making a few other changes--for instance, mentioning the specific gravity of the ANA piece. I will also be looking over Jefferson's Household Account book in its entirety for 1792--Barbara Oberg of the Jefferson papers at Princeton is sending me a copy.

My biggest concern now is that the article has grown too long for the American Journal of Numismatics. I may have to request your good offices to intercede on the grounds of significant new information in case they object to the sheer word count.

Again, Eric, I cannot express how grateful Carl and I are for your generous spirit and great learning. It has made all the difference for us.

Joel

Subj: **Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered by the Jefferson Household Account Book**
Date: 01/27/2004 10:41:01 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

I have received, from the Jefferson Papers, the photocopies of Jefferson's Memorandum Books, which include his household account book of 1792. As Taxay quoted (except for the misspelling of "disme"), the entry for July 13 reads: Recd. from the mint 1500. half dismes of the new coinage.

However, Taxay missed a very significant earlier entry, for July 11, which reads: Delivd. 75. D. at the mint to be coined.

This means that Jefferson himself delivered the bullion, for elsewhere, Jefferson names his servants when they did chores for him. Unfortunately, this is the only other entry for the entire year of 1792 bearing on the half dismes.

The very next entry after the note about receiving the half dismes on July 13 reads "Set out for Monticello." Later, on October 1, Jefferson records that he visited Mount Vernon, but the only notation is "vales 2 D." whatever that might mean. Washington returned to Philadelphia on October 13, but there is no mention after that of any transfer of $75 to the President. Nor, for that matter, is there any mention prior to July 11 of receiving $75 from the President.

There are a number of entries on various dates in which Jefferson receives $75 from the "bank of U.S." delivered by his manservant, Petit. Among these dates are July 5, November 2, 10, and 27, and December 4. This seems to have been his favorite sum to withdraw from the bank, and seems to have no connection with Washington.

All of this raises a number of questions:

1. Is it really possible that Jefferson delivered $75 in bullion to Harper's cellar on July 11, and got back $75 in coins on July 13, with no waste? Or does this imply that there was more than one source of silver, so that the waste from the silver Jefferson delivered was made up by silver from another source? Yet, we have no other record or even suggestion that the Mint had silver on hand in July of 1792 except that which was used to strike the half dismes.

2. We now have documentary evidence that Jefferson delivered the bullion to Harper's cellar on July 11, and received the finished coins two days later, but Washington is mentioned not at all. We have evidence of the coins coming into Jefferson's account book, but no evidence that they (orequivalent value) went out of the book, to Washington, or to anyone else. We now know from the Jeffferson Papers that Jefferson drafted the passage in Washington's Fourth Annual Address on the half disme, which Washington used verbatim. In short, the hard evidence we have points more to Jefferson than to Washington as the source of the bullion. Indeed, if Jefferson was the source, it would explain why he recorded receipt of the half dismes in his personal household journal instead of in a Department of State ledger.

3. But this is perplexing. If the Mint had other silver, what was their source? If Jefferson was the man who provided the bullion, and received the coins, why did all of the myriad authors of the 19th century attribute this to Washington, and not Jefferson? Indeed, I have never heard of Jefferson at all in this connection except in the Taxay quote.

Eric, my mind is spinning. I am in need of your calm and clear thinking to make sense of these new data.

Thanks,

Joel

Subj: **Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered by the Jefferson Household Account Book**
Date: 01/27/2004 10:41:01 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

I have received, from the Jefferson Papers, the photocopies of Jefferson's Memorandum Books, which include his household account book of 1792. As Taxay quoted (except for the misspelling of "disme"), the entry for July 13 reads: Recd. from the mint 1500. half dismes of the new coinage.

However, Taxay missed a very significant earlier entry, for July 11, which reads: Delivd. 75. D. at the mint to be coined.

This means that Jefferson himself delivered the bullion, for elsewhere, Jefferson names his servants when they did chores for him. Unfortunately, this is the only other entry for the entire year of 1792 bearing on the half dismes.

The very next entry after the note about receiving the half dismes on July 13 reads "Set out for Monticello." Later, on October 1, Jefferson records that he visited Mount Vernon, but the only notation is "vales 2 D." whatever that might mean. Washington returned to Philadelphia on October 13, but there is no mention after that of any transfer of $75 to the President. Nor, for that matter, is there any mention prior to July 11 of receiving $75 from the President.

There are a number of entries on various dates in which Jefferson receives $75 from the "bank of U.S." delivered by his manservant, Petit. Among these dates are July 5, November 2, 10, and 27, and December 4. This seems to have been his favorite sum to withdraw from the bank, and seems to have no connection with Washington.

All of this raises a number of questions:

1. Is it really possible that Jefferson delivered $75 in bullion to Harper's cellar on July 11, and got back $75 in coins on July 13, with no waste? Or does this imply that there was more than one source of silver, so that the waste from the silver Jefferson delivered was made up by silver from another source? Yet, we have no other record or even suggestion that the Mint had silver on hand in July of 1792 except that which was used to strike the half dismes.

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3. But this is perplexing. If the Mint had other silver, what was their source? If Jefferson was the man who provided the bullion, and received the coins, why did all of the myriad authors of the 19th century attribute this to Washington, and not Jefferson? Indeed, I have never heard of Jefferson at all in this connection except in the Taxay quote.

Eric, my mind is spinning. I am in need of your calm and clear thinking to make sense of these new data.

Thanks,

Joel

Subj: **Re: Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered by the Jefferson Household Account Book**
Date: 01/28/2004 12:45:44 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
You should be delighted that you found the July 11,1792 entry in Jefferson's account book that 75 D was delivered to the MInt. Imagine not knowing this important provable fact. It did not say the form in which 75 D was delivered, It gave a value not a weight.
The first thing that came to my mind was that it was impossible for raw silver in sterling, bullion or foreign coin to be delivered in raw form to the Mint and to have coined dismes ready two days later. Unless this was an error in dating I would have to conclude that the silver had already been smelted, adjusted as to fineness, cast, rolled into strip and blanked before delivery to Jefferson. Thus planchets had already been prepared and delivered to Jefferson. Thus the count would be correct as between the two entries. Perhaps the planchets were prepared elsewhere in Philadelphia as a sawmaker or coach shop would not necessarily have the needed equipment for the preliminaries to minting.
This is just a speculation but I want to get your thinking on it.
Let me think about the matter further.
Eric

Subj: **Jefferson confusion**
Date: 01/28/2004 8:05:04 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel: I had some thoughts which I meant to include in my earlier message today and was so surprised by the situation I forgot to mention them.
The time required for the Castaing machine to be used to roll the reeding onto each planchet should be considered. This strengthens the reeded planchet theory I suggested.
When I said smelter I should have said that an iron smelter for a saw maker or coach shop might be a normal and a blacksmith type but a smelter for silver would probably be of different construction and size than one routinely used at a silversmith. It would be ridiculous to build a temporary smelter when several silver smelters for modest quantities were available at Philadelphia silversmiths. This strengthens the Jefferson reeded edge planchet theory.
When Jefferson says 75 D it can at worst mean coined Spanish dollars because he would not express a dollar value for bullion or plate and he would probably have given instead the weight and perhaps fineness for bulk silver. The reeded planchets could be easily counted for a dollar total.
Jefferson never used the $ sign in his lifetime and often used a D with a horizontal line through it. Can you ask this question about his two entries?
Now I will let my mind sleep on the problem.
Eric

Subj: **Re: Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered by the Jefferson Household Account Book**
Date: 01/29/2004 10:57:57 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Eric:

I am delighted by having found this important piece of evidence. I was also quite perplexed until you came up with this brilliant explanation. It makes sense that the Mint in Harper's cellar would farm out the melting, refining and rolling operations, because a Philadelphia silversmith would be set up to do these at a lower cost than the temporary federal Mint. The coinage press(es) of course, would be at Harper's since there was no other Mint in Philadelphia.

I have made all of the changes that you suggested in your e-mail of January 20. I still have to make changes, of course, due to this new Jefferson data, but I will do so soon. would you be willing to review the changes once more before I sen the entire article off to the ANS?

I still have a few questions, and I will pose them to you in response to your second e-mail. I'm traveling, and having trouble with the laptop I'm using cutting out, and making me lose my data. Hence the two messages, and no time for proofreading!

Thanks so much--once more you have pulled back the curtain of the past, and given a rational explanation for the puzzling aspects of this work.

Joel

Subj: **Re: Jefferson confusion**
Date: 01/29/2004 11:08:57 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

My remaining questions:

1. the McAllister memo says $100 in bullion or coin. With the silversmith scenario, it is still plausible, is it not, that 75% of the original material could be lost to scissel?

2. Jefferson says he took $75 to the Mint on July 11, and on July 13 he says that he got $75 in half dismes. Is it really plausible that the Mint coined 1500 planchets without spoiling one, especially on their first go at coining?

3. Why did Jefferson say $75 D. instead of 1500 planchets? Could he have been thinking of the ultimate value of the coins rather the number of planchets? (I will check with Barbara Oberg at the Jefferson Papers, who has the photocopies of the originals, to see how the D. was written).

4. The ANA specimen has a specific gravity of 10.25, which translates to an approximate fineness of .850. If the planchets were made by a silversmith, one might expect the fineness of the half dismes to be close to the prescribed .892 fineness. Here is my explanation--the source was a mixed lot of coins in circulation in the new republic in 1792, in a range from .925 (Spanish silver dollars) to .750 (Dutch lion Dollars of 40 stuivers). They netted out to about .850. Ther was no other silver available, so .850 it was. Plausible?

Eric, thanks so much for your continued guidance and counsel.

Joel

4.

4.

Subj: **Re: Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered by the Jefferson Household Account Book**
Date: 01/30/2004 12:30:50 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel: My overnight thinking and your comments of yesterday have given me a chance for a few new suggestions. A silversmith would have been a maximum of a couple of blocks away from Harper's shop in Philadelphia in 1792, A silversmith had to have a roller for making flat sheets of silver of various thickness as he needed such a roller for trays, containers, tableware, boxes, etc. Why would a temporary Mint project do it elsewhere? Cutting out shaped pieces like silver buttons, cuff links, etc. would be standard work for a silversmith and half disme planchets would be very simple to make because the sheet would be so thin. The possibility that $100 in silver was turned over to the silversmith to make the planchets is reasonable because there would be leftovers from scissel, etc. and the silversmith would have that material for his labor (when you used 75% in your message to me you meant 25%).

Therefore Jefferson might have wanted to be cautious about Washington's silver and limit its exposure to theft by retaining the silversmith's product until the press had been tested and was ready for use. There was probably no safe at Harpers.

The withdrawal of $75 from the Bank of the United States on July 5, 1792 could not have been for the minting project because of the natural losses in producing $75 in dismes.

I would like to thank your friend at the Jefferson papers for her enormous devotion to this project if you think that would be proper. If you do please give me her address etc.

I have been previously involved in helping with the research of many others but yours takes the cake. What a fascinating situation!

Eric

Subj: **Re: Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered by the Jefferson Household Account Book**
Date: 01/30/2004 10:49:41 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

Your thinking, as always, is right on target. It does make sense that the silversmith would be close by, and that Jefferson might wish to hold the blanks until the Mint was ready to strike the coins.

You are correct that it would be proper to thank Barbara Oberg, Editor of the Jefferson Papers, for her help. I will do so in the revised draft. It would also be wonderful if you were to drop her a line. Barbara's e-mail is boberg@princeton.edu and the mailing address is:

The Papers of Thomas Jefferson
Princeton University Library
Princeton, NJ 08544

The revised paper goes to the typist on Monday. By now, it is getting closer to a monograph! Thanks so much, Eric, for your advice, counsel, and guidance. It has made the paper tremendously stronger.

Joel

Subj: **Dismes**
Date: 01/31/2004 4:11:40 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Joel: I have a few additional thoughts.
I forgot to mention two production elements which probably would have been better done elsewhere then at the saw maker's shop:
annealing and cleaning -- these were better performed in a silversmith shop because annealing required careful temperature control or proper withdrawal time which an ironmonger was not involved in. Cleaning silver sheet or planchets was also nothing unusual for a silversmith.
Another important point is that you say in a footnote that Breen says that some of the equipment was in the coach shop nearby. I do not know the source of that information.
If the work was spread around then a silversmith could easily do a part of the work.
I hope this is helpful. Eric

Subj: **Re: Dismeness**
Date: 1/13/2004 10:49:37 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

I am honored, indeed, to receive such high praise from you--and I will try my best to live up to it! I will search for the Osgood/Livingston report--original manuscript, if possible, original printed version if not.

I appreciate very much your willingness to do an extra review of the paper in the midst of all of your other commitments. Since substantive changes begin on p. 30, you needn't re-read the first 29, which should save you some time. Also recall that the short section on fineness is a mere placeholder until we can get better data. If it would be possible to return your comments to me by January 23, it would be wonderful--I will be traveling the week after that, and could do some work during the trip.

I must admit that I have already dropped your name in my communication with Prof. Smith. No reply from him as of yet, nor from Dr. Oberg at Princeton.

I will also contact Richard Doty at the Smithsonian to see if he can help on the fineness front. This is great fun!

Warm regards,

Joel

Subj: **Re: Half Dismes**
Date: 02/01/2004 12:56:50 AM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

Thanks for sharing with me a copy of this very appropriate note to Barbara Oberg. I am sure that she will be pleased to hear from you about the very positive efffect that her helpfulness has had upon this research project.

My guess is that she will also affirm that you were correct in your conclusion about Jefferson's use (or more accurately) non-use of the dollar sign. I will be intersted in learning her response if she does not copy me on it.

Again, Eric, thanks for sharing--this was a classy thing for you to do.

Warm regards,

Joel

Sunday, February 01, 2004 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: Dismes**
Date: 02/01/2004 1:06:00 AM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

These thoughts are helpful indeed, and I will incorporate them into the article revisions, upon which I will put the finishing touches Sunday morning, before handing them off to my typist on Monday. I am delighted with the results. Although there is no smoking gun, the preponderance of the evidence we have been able to amass certainly points in the direction of Washington. This very satisfactory result could not have been achieved without your wonderful ideas and insights. We are completely in your debt!

I believe that Breen's source material for the coach shop quote was an article in the Historical Magazine, but I will check this to make sure and report back to you.

Do you suppose that there is any symbolism in the fact that I will be completing the revisions on Super Sunday? What would Adam Eckfeldt have said about that?

Warm regards,

Joel

Sunday, February 01, 2004 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: Dismes**
Date: 02/01/2004 2:28:22 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Joel:
In answer to your question I would suggest that Adam Eckfeldt would have named a complex successful football play on Super Sunday as a SCREW PRESS.
Eric

Page 1 of 1

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

1/25/04

Mr. Dennis Schaffnetzel
1900 Red Fox Lane
Hixson TN 37343

not sent

Dear Sir:

Paul Garland was a good friend of mine.

When he wrote his book on Tennessee bank notes I believe I helped him with items from my collection. I do not remember if I furnished them with my slip notes or not. I have several volumes of Tennessee notes and will be glad to help you if you wish. Have you any list of the scrip you already know about?

Let me know the most practical way we can help you.

Sincerely

Eric P. Newman

Charles Edelman

Subj: **Half Dismes**
Date: 02/10/2004 12:25:38 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
Serendipity is with us again.
The John Reich Journal of Jan. 2004 (Vol. 15, Issue 3, p.15-28) just came and contains an article by my friend Craig Sholley entitled Early U.S. Minting Methods, Part III.
It contains information which I believe needs to be included in your opus.
On p. 21 Sholley mentions the entry in the Warrant book made on behalf of Rittenhouse and drawn on the Treasurer reading "Aug. 29 (1792) John Harper, for cutting, presses, castings 217.85"
This is on p. 170 of Stewart. Does this mean that the planchets were cut at Harpers? Does the word castings refer to iron castings for Eckfeldt's press rather than silver casting to be rolled or both?
This entry should be mentioned in your article.
Then I read a few more entries in Stewart and found "Sept. 1 (1792) John Harper 34.42". This should also be mentioned in your opus.
These certainly do not have to be interpreted but they show that Harper was doing work at his shop for the Mint and billing the Treasury for it. It certainly shows that he did not buy silver for the dismes. That further supports the Washington thesis. The date of those entries are just right. Sholley mentions a letter of Jefferson dated July 14, 1792 and it must relate to coinage. I do not recall it and so I do not know to whom it is written. I ask you to let me know what it is because it is so close in date to the entries in Jefferson's domestic account book that it is of critical importance.
I hope this brightens your day. Eric

February 3, 2004

Ms. Ute Wartenberg Kagan
Mr. Donald Partrick
American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 155th St.
New York, NY 10032

As you know a copy of the January 28, 2004 letter from John W. Adams to you was sent to me. A short comment from us may be appropriate.

The Adams letter states that there was "torpor" at ANS in the 1970's and this we presume was primarily based upon rumors during that period that ANS was missing some early U.S. cents and did little about it. At that time ANS had no definite evidence as to what happened. However, ANS did prepare, publish and sell at a modest cost an extensive inventory of its early U.S. cent holdings mentioning that many of the coins they held were not the coins given to ANS by Clapp. ANS was obviously seeking additional information from everyone on the problem. No one came forward with facts..

Del Bland, a numismatic professional, was a specialist in early U.S. copper coin provenance when in the late 1980s he asked permission to study the ANS early U.S. cents and the missing coin problem. Leslie Elam, then ANS director, granted this privilege on condition that Bland would make available a full report to ANS on all known related data. Bland told Elam that Bland may have "handled" some of the coins and asked to be protected by ANS. What "handled" meant to Bland and what it meant to Elam seems to be at variance. Nothing was written out. In our many discussions with Elam we conclude that at that time and for a substantial period thereafter Elam did not have any information as to whether held or had "sold" any missing ANS coins.

Subj: **Re: Half Dismes**
Date: 02/10/2004 9:42:41 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

This does make my day! I just got the manuscript back from my typist this evening, but now I need to make some additions. I have written to David Yoon, also this evening, to discover his drop-dead date for receiving the manuscript, since I would very much like you to review the last 30 pages one last time (they have been materially reworked since the last draft that you reviewed). If the time is very tight, I will send it to you without the additional information that you have given in this message. If there is a little more time, I will include this information in the draft before I send it to you.

The account book entries do certainly strengthen the Washington thesis. And the Jefferson letter has a date that sounds very promising. The only hitch is that I have read the letters listed for July 14, 1792 in the Jefferson Papers, vol. 24, and none had anything to do with coinage. I will check again, to be sure.

The article is shaping up into something significant, and neither Carl nor I will ever forget the debt we owe to you for helping us to make it so.

Joel

Subj: **Re: Dismes**
Date: 02/01/2004 9:57:00 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

I love your puns! And I suppose that if Eckfeldt were in charge of testing players on the teams for possible drug use, he would demand that each produce a specimen (not previously circulated) for him!

The revised manuscript went to my typist today. I have asked David Yoon about space requirements for the *AJN,* for the finshed article will be about 75 double-spaced pages in length, more a monograph than an article. It's all important stuff, though, so I hope the editors will be flexible. I'll keep you posted.

Happy February!

Warm regards,

Joel

Subj: **Re: Half Dismes**
Date: 02/11/2004 8:33:14 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
Cuttings does mean in my opinion that the planchets are cut out of the strip at Harpers. Making the strip could easily have been done at Harpers because a new strip roller had to be prepared for use for the new Mint site after the old one from Harpers was inadequate.
I feel that the planchet cut out mechanism might have been Eckfeldt's screw press. They just needed a few days to remove the upper die holder and put in a punch and put in a flat base plate with a hole in it over the base and take the lower die holder out. The same motion would handle both functions.
The Jefferson July 14, 1792 letter might be an error by Sholley but I doubt it as he is very meticulous.
The period from the morning of July 9 to the evening of July 11, 1792 could really be three days instead of two so it gives a little more time for striking.
The references which Craig Sholley gives are:
Waldo Abbot, " Making Money" Harpers New Monthly, Dec 1861.
Dennis Cooper, The Art and Craft of Coin Making.
Eckfeldt & Dubois, Manual of Gold & Silver Coins of All Nations.
Record Group 104, Regional Archives at Phila,
Peale Ledgers, Correspondence, Blotters of Receipts and Expenditures, Warrant stubs and Wastebooks.
Stewart
Snowden no others
Taxay

I will be glad to go over the last pages of the draft if you can send them in interlineated form or otherwise. I will write Yoon for a slight delay if necessary.
Eric

Subj: **Re: Half Dismes**
Date: 02/11/2004 9:33:39 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

Thanks for the additional information. It must be the case that the Mint began cutting the planchets out of the strip after the half dismes were coined, because, even if we count July 9-11 as three days, there still would not be enough time for the fledgling Mint to undertake the entire process of coinage, from melting to striking, in that brief period of time.

I am leaving early Thursday morning for a business trip, and won't return until Saturday. I will have the paper back from my typist with the latest revisions by then, and I will overnight the final pages to you for one last review. I very much appreciate your willingness to read this for a third time--perhaps a new record for a volunteer reviewer!

Thanks again,

Joel

Subj: **Re: Half Dismes**
Date: 02/12/2004 12:34:59 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
You seem to have misunderstood me. I meant to present the idea that the Harper shop could have received the silver and had it melted there or nearby, rolled and annealed the strip and cut out the planchets and cleaned them and had the planchet edges reeded. Then because the Eckfeldt screw press needed some further parts or adjustments to strike coins Harper or Eckfeldt or someone at the shop for security reasons returned the edged planchets to Jefferson for safekeeping until the press was tested and ready for coining. (It would have been very embarrassing if the "president's" silver were stolen). Maybe Jefferson suggested the temporary return of the planchets Then Jefferson sent the planchets to the Harper shop for coining. There could have been a week or so interval during which Jefferson held the planchets . In three days after redelivery there would be no problem in striking 1500 coins in two or three days when the coining press was operating properly whether hand fed or with an automatic feeder and ejection device. The coins were very small and did not have the pressure problems of larger pieces. Eric

Subj: **Re: Half Dismes**
Date: 02/13/2004 11:39:47 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Eric,

You are right--I did misunderstand your meaning. Thanks for explaining it further. Your scenario now makes perfect sense to me, and I will include it.

I have been delayed in sending you the final draft because of having to go Arizona on business, but I am back now. Serendipitously, this will allow me to make the changes we have been discussing, and also to include data on the S.G. for a second specimen. Robert Hoge tested a specimen belonging to an ANS docent, and came up with an S.G. slightly lower than that of the ANA specimen--more corroboration that half dismes certainly were not struck from sterling, but are considerably finer than silver plate. I will make the changes and get them to my typist over the weekend.

My hope is to overnight the revisions (pages 41 to 63) to you on Monday, or Tuesday at the latest. David Yoon says he could still include the article if I get it to him by Monday, February 23. If I could impose upon you to review the pages I send as soon as possible, and send me your comments via e-mail, I should be able to send David the article, via e-mail attachment, in time to meet the deadline.

Eric, thanks so much for your continued intellectual generosity. And a happy St. Valentine's day to you!

Joel

JOEL J. OROSZ
4300 OLD FIELD TRAIL
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49008

February 15, 2004

Dear Eric,

As I mentioned in the e-mail just sent you, I am imposing upon you to read, one last time, pages 41-64 of the article, with all of the latest revisions. It has just come back from my typist, and in my haste to get it to you I have not had time to read it for small typos, for which I apologize.

I can hardly thank you enough for your enormous intellectual generosity over the past three months. You have transformed a good article into something approaching greatness. Carl and I are forever in your debt.

David Yoon would like to have the article in his hands by Monday, Feb. 23. If you could email your edits to me, I will see to it that the changes are made and that David gets the article by the deadline.

Again, Eric, I thank you. Like Mrs. Newman, I feel as if I have taken a term at the University of Eric Newman!

Warm regards,

Joel

Subj: **(no subject)**
Date: 02/16/2004 7:42:21 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Eric:

I sent you the pertinent pages to review this morning via UPS next day mail. They should arrive on your doorstep by 10:30 Tueday morning. Thanks so much for reading this for us!

Warm regards,

Joel

Subj: **Re: (no subject)**
Date: 02/17/2004 1:55:49 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
The revised draft arrived on schedule and I am making a few comments as requested. This is turning out to be a wonderful piece of work and I am privileged to be of help.

Page 42: In the top partial paragraph there are no hyphens between the two written out fractional amounts. I think there should be because there are hyphens in several fractional amounts in the next quotes with hyphens. I do not know where the typos originated but making it accurate does not hurt the quote even if the hyphens were not in the original paragraph of the law.

Page 43: This has a possible contradiction in the top partial paragraph. You say Sheffield plate is below .500 fineness and then you say .750 fineness is the lower range.

Page 44: Line 8 Put in the word "foreign" before the word "coins". This is to clarity for the reader.

Page 44: Full paragraph in the middle. Take out the words "lack of metal" because they did have copper for mixture as they were making experimental cents. Copper was readily obtainable for the amount they needed if they had wanted to reduce fineness.

You might state earlier that because it was Washington's silver the Harper mint did not feel authorized to strike coinage until it had Washington's specific approval and that could be a reason why completed planchets were returned to Jefferson until that approval came because Washington realized the coins might not be ready when he was scheduled to leave Philadelphia. You make the point later but it should be mentioned earlier.

Somewhere you might mention that some of Washington's silver might have been used for the silver center cents and dismes which were made as experimental pieces rather than for issuance. The half dismes were made to be issued and distributed. This may have used up a small part of the silver Washington gave them.

Virtually all comments in the second paragraph on page 49 now become illogical. The use of the word "cutting" in the Harper payment indicates that Harper cut the planchets out of the strip. The strip was also apparently made at Harpers. Eliminate the paragraph and drastically modify or eliminate most items on page 50 to conform to the new findings. Incidentally line 8 on page 50 should have the spelling

corrected to "half dismes", not "half dimes".

In the last paragraph on page 51 the indication that no errors were made when striking the planchets delivered by Jefferson may be wrong because the Harper Mint may have retained a few of the planchets it made before delivery of planchets to Jefferson. You could mention this point as the delivery of 1500 planchets to Jefferson is counted out deliberately to an even number for convenience and could not reasonably be the amount actually made because they knew they needed spares. Using up all the silver planchets which they had made at the time.
If Jefferson left for Monticello on 13 July then he could have taken the half dismes with him and later delivered some or all of them to Mt. Vernon to which Washington had gone on 11 July. Mt. Vernon and Monticello are not to far apart and communication by messenger between the two top government officers must have been continuous and routine.

These comments are done hurriedly because they may cause a lot of extra editing. I am sorry to do that to you but I when new facts are found I use them regardless what I said or speculated before. Please Email me your changes or thoughts as I want to study the matter further to take advantage of all the new findings and the change of logic based upon them.

Eric

Subj: **Re: (no subject)**
Date: 02/17/2004 8:59:37 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

Your hurried review has caught a number of items that I should have caught myself. but missed in the rush to make revisions. I am leaving Wednesday morning for another business trip, and will not return home until Thursday night. However, I will take a copy of your comments, along with a copy of the paper, along with me, and make the changes on Wednesday evening. I will then give them to my typist on Thursday night, and should be able to get a revison e-mailed to you by Saturday.

I very much appreciate your willingness to give this one final reading before it goes off to David Yoon on Monday. Thanks to your wonderful critical insights, I think we are getting at the truth at last.

Thanks so much--I will get these changes to you as soon as I can.

Warm regards,

Joel

Subj: **Re: Your opus**
Date: 02/21/2004 10:23:58 PM Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

Thank you so much for your exemplary speed--your six hour turnaround puts even the estimable folks at Federal Express to shame! Your changes are all very sensible, and I will make them tomorrow, along with a reading for typos. I will then get the corrections to my typist, who has pledged to do them immediately. Then I should be able to e-mail the manuscript to David Yoon, actually slightly before the Monday deadline.

I will be sure to let David know that you are available should he have questions or concerns.

Again, Eric, I cannot begin to express our gratitude for the remarkable level of scrutiny you gave to this work. The second half of it, in particular, would be just plain wrong if you hadn't stepped in to unravel the intricacies of the situation. My hat is permanently doffed to you for your generosity.

I am sure that you are correct in saying that there will be detractors once this is published, but the since the person I admire most in this field is in our corner, I am content that our position is the correct one.

Warm regards,

Joel

Subj: **Latest revisions of half disme article**
Date: 02/21/2004 10:45:39 AM Central Standard Time
From: oroszj@gvsu.edu
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Dear Eric:

Here is the revised article, literally just received from my typist. I have not had the opportunity to read for typos, which I will do. But I appreciate your willingness to give it one last thorough read, from pp 42 to the end, for soundness of content and conclusions.

Eric, you have gone above and beyond the call. Thanks so much for your counsel and mentorship.

Joel

Joel J. Orosz, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of Philanthropic Studies
Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership
Grand Valley State University
238C DeVos Center, 401 West Fulton Street
Grand Rapids, MI 49504-6431
616/331-7494 (ph)
616/331-7592 (fax)
www.gvsu.edu/philanthropy (web)
Director, Philanthropic and Nonprofit Knowledge Management Initiative
Nonprofit Good Practice Guide, www.nonprofitbasics.org
The Grantmaking School, www.grantmakingschool.org

Joel - Good work
It appears that you
and my wife are on
the same page. Here
is the latest Blast about
her. She would love to
talk to you
Eric Numis

Subj: **The finished product!**
Date: 02/22/2004 12:21:26 PM Central Standard Time
From: oroszj@gvsu.edu
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Eric,

I am attaching the version that I next send to David Yoon. All of your last changes are made, and I think it looks great. Again, we thank you so much for your superb coaching, guidance and encouragement. This article is very much part of your already redoubtable legacy of numismatic scholarship.

Warm regards,

Joel

Joel J. Orosz, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of Philanthropic Studies
Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership
Grand Valley State University
238C DeVos Center, 401 West Fulton Street
Grand Rapids, MI 49504-6431
616/331-7494 (ph)
616/331-7592 (fax)
www.gvsu.edu/philanthropy (web)
Director, Philanthropic and Nonprofit Knowledge Management Initiative
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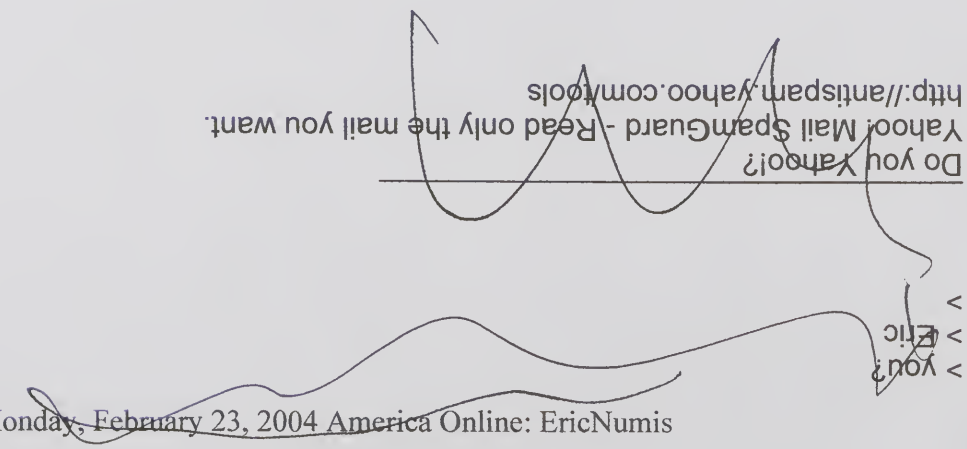
The Grantmaking School, www.grantmakingschool.org

Monday, February 23, 2004 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **(no subject)**
Date: 02/23/2004 10:53:01 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
Are you going to have an enlarged image of each face of the Half Disme? I think this is very necessary for the reader. ANS can use its piece and get credit for it.
Eric



Monday, February 23, 2004 America Online: EricNumis

Saturday, May 01, 2004 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Half Disme Developments**
Date: 04/30/2004 11:49:26 PM Central Daylight Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

I want to bring you up to date on the half disme front. The manuscript for the article has long since been turned in, and David Yoon is working on it. I haven't gotten it back for revisions yet, but I will let you know when I do.

You may have seen my letter to the editor in the May 4 edition of *Numismatic News*. Paul Green wrote a column about half dimes in the April 20 issue, in which he used the McClintock citation, so I corrected that error, and also used the letter as an occasion to do a little marketing for the forthcoming article. David Yoon tells me that the ANS would not mind if I did a bit of promotion, since that is not the sort of thing they do themselves.

Along those lines, I have also signed up to do a Numismatic Theatre presentation at the ANA in Pittsburgh, entitled "Did George Washington Provide the Bullion Used to Strike 1792 Half Dismes?" It is scheduled for Friday, August 20, at 2 pm. If you are able to attend, I would be honored.

So, that is the way things stand for now. I thank you again for your wonderfully generous assistance on the article. I hope to see you in Pittsburgh.

Warm regards,

Joel

Page 1 of 1

Saturday, May 01, 2004 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: Half Disme Developments**
Date: 05/01/2004 4:49:57 PM Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
I noticed your letter to the editor in Numismatic News and am glad you corrected the Green comment. I had to look up your use of the word "invaluable" to be sure it did not mean valueless some of the time.
As to Pittsburgh I do not plan to come as I am involved with so many other numismatic situations. It would be great to see you. My wife would really like to talk to you as to your compensatory profession as she has devoted 55 years so far to the creation and carrying out of concepts to raise money for not-for-profit organizations. Maybe you could come here for a visit and see both of us. My collection and numismatic library might even intrigue you somewhat.
Eric

Subj: **Re: The "disme" spelling**
Date: 07/10/2004 11:48:20 PM Central Daylight Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

I will be sure to follow up with your post-*Fantasitc 1804* articles on the subject. The notion that the 321 Spanish silver dollars were recoined as US dollars with earlier dates came from Taxay, but I agree with your position on the matter, fot it seems rather late in the game to be coining dollars in 1805.

I will surely add the "disme" spelling to the half disme article.

I can see from the scholarly bent in your grandchildren that the Newman genes are showing persistence across the generations. Good for your Bronx principal grandchild--the Gates Foundation initiative offers the best hope going for turning around schools in troubled communities. And with all of the marriages and babies, the Newman family reunions must be getting to be rather large affairs!

If I can be of any assistance on your numismatic research projects, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Warm regards,

Joel

Subj: **The "disme" spelling**
Date: 07/10/2004 12:30:57 AM Central Daylight Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

I thought you might be interested to learn that I have run across another use of the "disme" spelling, and from rather late in the game, as well. I just purchased a copy of Albert Gallatin's *Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury...Prepared in Obedience to "An Act Establishing a Mint and Regulating the Coins of the United States."* dated April 1, 1806.

Statement A within reports on mintages of all denominations for the calendar year 1805, and it uses the spellings of "dismes" and "half dismes."

This same statement also says that 321 silver dollars were struck in 1805. This caused some puzzlement until I re-read the relevant portion of Taxay's *Counterfeit, Mis-Struck and Unofficial U.S. Coins* (p. 158), and was reminded that these were 321 Spanish silver dollars that were restruck into American silver dollars from earlier-dated dies.

In the process, however, I re-read with interest a summary of your good work in proving the Ostheimer 1804 and 1805 silver dollars, sold by Werner and "authenticated" by Bolender, to be in fact fakes. If you will pardon these wishes coming your way 43 years late, please accept my congratulations on a fine piece of detective work.

I am still waiting for the ANS to send me edits on the half disme article. I will let you know when that happens. In the meantime, all the best to you!

Warm regards,

Joel

Just a brief note to tell you that I still have not heard back from the ANS regarding edits on the half di

SAINT PAUL
BORUP & DAVIS
ONE DOLLAR
1
ONE

Subj: **Re: The "disme" spelling**
Date: 07/11/2004 5:20:23 PM Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
When it rains it pours. I just rechecked Taxay's US MINT AND COINAGE as to the 321 Spanish dollars and another matter. Guess what ..... on page 125 there is a letter dated March 29, 1807 from Jefferson to Director of the Mint Patterson using "dimes & half dimes" (probably spelled wrong but you will have to check the original) and then amazingly on page 126 is an answering letter dated April 2, 1807 from Mint Director Patterson to President Jefferson used the words "dismes and half dismes" in one paragraph and using "silver dismes" in the next paragraph. So Patterson is spelling correctly and Jefferson appears not to. I will bet that Jefferson spelled the words correctly in the French style and that the editors of the text which Taxay used made the mistake,
Now you will also see that Patterson believed the confusing entries in the Mint records about the 321 Spanish dollars and that is why Taxay continued that confusion in his next book.
The delay has given you the opportunity to correct the text in your article. I am sorry my new find will cause an extra problem but you opened the door to the correction by your fine find.
This is a perfect example as to how mistakes can creep into work regardless of good intentions.
Eric

SAINT PAUL
BORUP'S DANCES
ONE

Subj: **Re: The "disme" spelling**
Date: 07/12/2004 10:53:34 PM Central Daylight Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric,

Once again, you have found more data! Sure enough, there are the letters in *The U.S. Mint and Coinage,* just as big as life. Since we know that Jefferson was using "disme " in holographic letters as late as 1814, I will bet you a cookie that your theory is correct--that an editor of the Jefferson letter source that Taxay used "corrected" the disme spelling.

It is interesting that Director Patterson bought into the confusing entries about the 321 Spanish silver dollars. It seems that even when the Mint officials were not trying to obfuscate, they sometimes managed to do so anyway!

I will get all this straightened out in the manuscript. Thank you, as always, for getting to the heart of the matter.

Warm regards,

Joel

Subj: **Belated information**
Date: 11/18/2004 12:19:35 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: oroszj@gvsu.edu
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Dear Eric:

My apologies for the long silence from my end. My mother has been in a state of decline ever since I returned from the ANA, and it has consumed much of my time to get her stabilized, which, thank heavens, she now seems to be.

I have been meaning to share with you my Numismatic Theatre presentation on McAllister and the half dismes ever since I gave it in August, but I have not gotten around to the doing the necessary clean-up until now. Attached are two documents--the third draft is what I wanted to say, but the Numismatic Theatre document is what time constraints actually allowed me to say. Both documents, of course, are of necessity quite condensed versions of the article, the actual presentation more so.

Speaking of the article, David Yoon did his usual superb job of editing it, and we have made the final changes. It is in production right now, and with luck, we should see it in print before the end of the year.

Eric, Carl and I will be forever indebted to you for your many contributions to this article. The questions you raised, and the interpretations you offered, improved the substance and the style considerably. Your generosity in shariung your immense knowledge of numismatics is exemplary, and we are very grateful.

Warm regards,

Joel

Joel J. Orosz, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of Philanthropic Studies
Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership
Grand Valley State University
238C DeVos Center, 401 West Fulton Street
Grand Rapids, MI 49504-6431
616/331-7494 (ph)
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The Grantmaking School, www.grantmakingschool.org

Subj: **Disme**
Date: 11/29/2004 8:26:21 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
The leading article in the Numismatist for December 2004 on page 34 is entitled "All About a Dime" by Robert W. Julian. In it is stated: "The term disme does not seem to appear in Jefferson's writings."
There are other parts of the text which you may also raise your eyebrows.
There is also a Jefferson letter using disme in 1807 which letter I did not mention to you in prior correspondence but perhaps you knew or know about it.
I would be interested in what you think should be done as I do not know when your article is to be published.
My best Eric

Subj: **Re: Disme**
Date: 11/30/2004 5:47:18 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

I saw Bob's article as well, and my eybrows indeed arched over the Jeferson statement. I was contemplating sending a courteous letter to the editor in correction, and your note has convinced me that I should do so.

On another front, about ten days ago, I sent, from my work e-mail account, a copy of the text I delivered at my Numismatic Theatre presentation on the 1792 half disme this past August. Did that message come through to you? If not, I will be happy toi resend it.

I hope that you are well. With what current numismatic problems are you currently grappling?

Thanks,

Joel

Subj: **Re: Disme**
Date: 12/01/2004 3:18:36 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
I think it was the right decision for you to call attention to the Julian error about Jefferson. Julian has a lame excuse in that he uses "seems" to apply to his statement, but he has done so much good work on US Mint topics I feel he will not be happy about it.
I am working on a couple of fascinating research projects but the strawberry leaf 1793 cent comments I have made lately to other researchers related to their possibility being tooled or Smith of Ann Street type alterations of genuine worn cents and then artificially worn to smooth the tooling.
Keep rolling along. Eric

Subj: **Re: Disme**
Date: 12/01/2004 9:31:01 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

I will proceed with the letter, in the most tactful way I can without sacrificing facts.

I will look forward to seeing the results of your work on the Strawberry Leaf cent. Perhaps the new owner, who recently paid a record price for the specimen ANR rediscovered, would be a bit distressed to think that he had a tooled alteration!

Cheers,

Joel

Subj: **Fwd: Heads Up**
Date: 12/16/2004 10:11:40 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

I sent a copy of my letter to the editor regarding Jefferson and the "disme" spelling, as a courtesy, to Bob Julian. I thought you might be interested in seeing his answer, which is attached.

Happy holidays to the entire Newman family!

Joel

Forwarded Message:
Subj: **Re: Heads Up**
Date: 12/15/2004 8:21:30 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: julianrw@clss.net
To: Joelorosz@aol.com
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Dear Joel:

There is some confusion here. Actually it was my intention to indicate that I could not find the word "disme" in Jefferson's writing prior to the Confederation law of 1786 and was therefore not certain who had coined the word. The problem is that The Numismatist rewrites every sentence, or virtually so, and this was one that got changed around.

It may well be that Jefferson used the term disme prior to 1786 but I do not have ready access to the multi-volume set of his papers. The rewrite at Colorado Springs said definitely that the word had never appeared whereas my original said that, in essence, it had just not been found.

Bob
15 December

At 10:00 PM -0500 12/14/04, Joelorosz@aol.com wrote:

> Dear Bob:
>
> I thoroughly enjoyed your article on the dime in the last issue of *Numismatist*. I did, however, take issue with one small point that you made, namely on the use of the word "disme" in Jefferson's writings. I wanted to give you a heads up on the letter I sent to *Numismatist* in response, a copy of which I attach.
>
> Bob, I hope that your holidays are joyous, and I look forward to seeing you next year at the Rittenhouse Society breakfast, if not before.
>
> Best regards,

Subj: **(no subject)**
Date: 03/19/2005 10:52:35 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
I just learned that at a recent auction of a 1792 One cent pattern without the silver plug that it was afterward tested and had no silver in its composition as was long rumored, just plain copper. The ones with the silver plug were probably made from planchets of the same copper material.
When is the half disme matter to be published?
I hope you are fine and finding new data. Eric

Subj: **Re: (no subject)**
Date: 03/22/2005 9:42:31 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

Chalk up another instance of the empirical data confirming one of your deductions--congratulations!

I have been told by the editorial staff of the ANS that the printing is back from Hong Kong, and the American Journal of Numismatics should be published by the end of this month, so I hope it is in your mailbox by the beginning of April.

Again, we thank you for your superb assistance, which will be amply reflected in the text of the article.

Best regards,

Joel

-----Original Message-----
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz
Sent: Sat, 19 Mar 2005 11:52:35 AM Eastern Standard Time
Subject: (no subject)

Dear Joel:
I just learned that at a recent auction of a 1792 One cent pattern without the silver plug that it was afterward tested and had no silver in its composition as was long rumored, just plain copper. The ones with the silver plug were probably made from planchets of the same copper material.
When is the half disme matter to be published?
I hope you are fine and finding new data. Eric

Subj: **Half disme's friends**
Date: 03/28/2005 4:17:15 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
I have not yet received the half disme article as yet but I hear it is already in distribution. I probably will receive only one copy so please send me or have sent to me two extra copies. I have recently learned that the recently sold 1792 one cent pattern without the silver center has been tested and has no silver in it. I believe Jefferson wrote that it was composition and would like that exact quote if you have it handy. Either Jefferson had an idea which was not carried out, or he was wrong or that the recently sold piece may be subject to challenge. Any observations?
Best regards. Eric

Subj: **Re: Half disme's friends**
Date: 03/28/2005 10:02:30 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

The half disme article has indeed come out, and I am pleased with the editing and printing job turned in by David Yoon. I will ask him to send two additional hardbound copies to you. When you receive it, you will see that the last third of the article, in particular, leans very heavily upon your contributions.

With regard to the Jefferson quote on the 1792 pattern cent, I do not believe that my library contains the exact quote for which you are searching. I will share with you the closest thing I have found. If that is not the one, let me know, for I am going to Western Michigan University on other business on Wednesday, and could look through the Jefferson Papers then to find the exact quote.

According to Taxay, *The U.S. Mint and Coinage,* p. 74, Jefferson wrote Washngton on Dec. 18, 1792, as follows:

Th. Jefferson has the honor to send the President two cents made on Voigt's plan by putting a silver plug woth 3/4 of a cent into a copper worth 1/4 cent.

Mr. Rittenhouse is about to make a few by mixing the same plug by fusion by the same quantity of copper. He will then make [one] of copper alone of the same size, & lastly he will make the real cent as ordered by Congress, 4 times as big. Specimens of these several ways of making the cent may be delivered to the Committee of Congress now having the subject before them.

Thanks,

Joel

Subj: **Fwd: Half disme's friends**
Date: 03/28/2005 10:17:01 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: Yoon@amnumsoc.org
CC: wartenberg@numismatics.org, EricNumis

Dear David:

I have received my copy of the *American Journal of Numismatics* 15, and I must once more compliment you on your judicious editing and deft presentation of the half disme article co-authored by Carl Herkowitz and me. We are pleased indeed by the final presentation.

I would like to pass along to you the attached request from Eric P. Newman for two hardbound copies of *AJN* 15 (in addition to his regular subscription copy). As you well know, Eric's contributions to the article were immense, and it is no overstatement to say that we could not have completed the article without drawing on his vast knowledge of the early Mint and its coinage. In gratitude for those contributions, please send Eric the extra copies, and bill me for the costs.

Again, my congratulations on a job well done, and here is to our paths crossing again in the near future.

Best regards,

Joel

Forwarded Message:
Subj: **Half disme's friends**
Date: 03/28/2005 4:17:15 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
I have not yet received the half disme article as yet but I hear it is already in distribution. I probably will receive only one copy so please send me or have sent to me two extra copies. I have recently learned that the recently sold 1792 one cent pattern without the silver center has been tested and has no silver in it. I believe Jefferson wrote that it was composition and would like that exact quote if you have it handy. Either Jefferson had an idea which was not carried out, or he was wrong or that the recently sold piece may be subject to challenge. Any observations?
Best regards. Eric

Subj: **Half disme article**
Date: 03/29/2005 11:33:03 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: yoon@amnumsoc.org
CC: Joelorosz

Dear Mr. Yoon:
In the communication of Joel Orosz to you dated 3/28/05 he asked you to send me a couple of copies of the article on the half disme and to bill him for the cost. Under no circumstances should he be billed. I will gladly pay for the items. It was my thought that under ANS procedures any author usually received 25 copies or off prints of his work. That is what always happened to me.
I have not received my copy of the AJN as yet.
I hope you are enjoying your work.
Eric P. Newman

Subj: **Re: Half disme article**
Date: 03/30/2005 10:12:55 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz
BCC: KBressett@pcisys.net

Dear Joel:
Thank you for straightening out the offprint matter.

As to the December 18, 1792 Jefferson letter to Washington about the silver center cents and the contemplated fusion cents it seems as though we have confusion instead of fusion. Taxay cites David Watson's 1899 History of American Coinage as the source of the Jefferson letter instead of any more modern Jefferson papers. Whenever you get a chance I think it would be worthwhile to locate the letter in a better source. I would very much appreciate this as it seems reasonable that no fusion pieces were ever made. Perhaps I should try to ask those who have small 1792 one cent copper pieces without a silver plug that it would be worth while to have them non - destructively tested.
My best to you. Eric

Subj: **Re: Half disme article**
Date: 03/30/2005 3:34:29 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: kbressett@pcisys.net
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Eric,

The ANA has such a piece and it is in wretched condition. Perhaps they would be willing to have it tested. In fact, they might be able to do the testing here with college equipment. Why not ask Doug Mudd if he is willing?

Ken

At 11:12 AM 3/30/2005 -0500, you wrote:

> Dear Joel:
> Thank you for straightening out the offprint matter.
>
> As to the December 18, 1792 Jefferson letter to Washington about the silver center cents and the contemplated fusion cents it seems as though we have confusion instead of fusion. Taxay cites David Watson's 1899 History of American Coinage as the source of the Jefferson letter instead of any more modern Jefferson papers. Whenever you get a chance I think it would be worthwhile to locate the letter in a better source. I would very much appreciate this as it seems reasonable that no fusion pieces were ever made. Perhaps I should try to ask those who have small 1792 one cent copper pieces without a silver plug that it would be worth while to have them non - destructively tested.
> My best to you. Eric

Kenneth Bressett
P.O. Box 60145
Colorado Springs, CO 80960
kbressett@pcisys.net

Subj: **Re: Half disme article**
Date: 03/30/2005 4:36:51 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

The two offprints will be at your home by noon tomorrow (Thursday), inscribed by one of the grateful authors, via the USPS.

With regard to the quote, I will try to find the original at the WMU library over the weekend. According to Watson (p.65), the citation for the quotation is to *Miscellanous Letters,* vol. X, State Department. I will check the Jefferson Papers first, and if I have no luck there, I will see if the library has a run of the State Department's *Miscellaneous Letters.* I will report on my findings.

Another interesting mystery to unravel--ain't numismatics fun?

Thanks,

Joel

Subj: **Small 1792 copper cent pattern without the silver plug**
Date: 04/01/2005 2:29:41 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: mudd@money.org
BCC: KBressett@pcisys.net, Joelorosz

The Jefferson letter dated December 18, 1792 as quoted in Watson is corrected by Taxay by using "worth" instead of "with" in two places.
Yet Taxay cites Watson without mentioning the correction. So forget my comment about that since it has been corrected already. Eric

Sunday, April 03, 2005 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: Small 1792 copper cent pattern without the silver plug**
Date: 04/01/2005 8:36:34 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

Thanks for clearing up the "with/worth" question. I will be going to the WMU library over the weekend to see if I can find the letter in either the Jefferson Papers or the source cited in Watson. If so, I will make a careful and accurate transcription, and share it with you, along with complete bibliographical information.

I hope that the two offprints arrived safely at your door.

Warm regards, and happy April Fool's Day!

Joel

Sunday, April 03, 2005 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: Small 1792 copper cent pattern without the silver plug**
Date: 04/03/2005 1:31:04 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
The offprints arrived with their very gracious inscriptions. I am delighted with the article as a whole and I hope it receives the recognition that it deserves. It is complicated and has to be studied carefully rather than just read. It is so difficult to straighten out matters which appear unessential at first and to realize that they need straightening out and that task will make the material become important.
As to the 1792 small cent patterns what you have clarified now indicates that both plain copper and mixed copper strikings can exist and that the tests of several lookalikes require it.
As to the Washington Cent matter raised by Mudd the interpretation of what "monarchial" if actually used really refers to.
II will send you a copy of my today's letter to him.
Thanks again. Eric

Page 1 of 1

Tuesday, April 05, 2005 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: Small 1792 copper cent pattern without the silver plug**
Date: 04/04/2005 9:48:30 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

Thanks very much for your gracious note. I am rather proud of the article, and will always remember that your timely intervention improved it immeasurably.

I'm glad the the offprints and the transcription of the quote reached you safely.

Now, a few observations about the alleged monarchical quote. I've seen this quote mentioned for years, but I don't recall having seen the ultimate source of the quote. Do you know if the source has ever been identified?

We do know, however, that patterns were made and rejected, and one might presume that it was Washington who did the rejecting, upon the grounds that the patterns were too much like their monarchical antecedents. As long as we remember that, in the absence of a definitive source for the quote, that all of this is supposition, we can proceed.

It seems to me that Washington's apparent rejection of the pattern for coinage and his personal admiration of the gold 1792 pattern can be reconciled. Washington, having guided the country through a revolution, the ratification of the Constitution, and the establishment of its first Presidential administration, would understand that it would be better public policy for a young and fragile republic to have a device emblematic of liberty on its coins, rather than the bust of its chief executive. However, it would be asking an awful lot of human nature if we expected him NOT to be flattered by this depiction. Few among us would be upset to see our visage immortalized upon the obverse of a gold coin. By 1792, Washington could trust himself with power–having resigned his commission after the Revolution, and retired after chairing the Constitutional Convention. Surely, he would not feel in danger of being seduced by monarchical tendencies if he carried the 1792 gold pattern as a pocket piece.

If Washington indeed dismissed any coin carrying his bust as monarchical, it seems to me that this would simply be a good public judgment on his part, and not necessarily indicative of his personal feelings. I think this adds further weight to your theory that it was the numeral that Washington objected to most strongly. There was talk about Washington being made king during both the Revolution and the Confederation periods. In the absence of children, there was even talk of Washington designating a successor. It would seem likely that WASHINGTON PRESIDENT I could imply that Washington was founding a hereditary dynasty (a charge to which he would be sensitive due to the criticism leveled at his membership in the Society of the Cincinnati). I agree with you that it was the numeral, more than the actual use of his name and bust, that caused him to reject the pattern for official use (but keep it as a pocket piece).

Eric, I hope that these spculations are helpful to you. I will be traveling for work from tomorrow through Saturday evening, and out of touch of this e-mail account. If you need to reach me urgently, my work e-mail account is oroszj@gvsu.edu .

Warm regards,

Joel

Subj: **Hodge's**
Date: 04/05/2005 3:20:24 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: Green@mbney.org

Dear Nancy:
Wayne was nice enough to relay your response to my inquiry about the above.
Please give me the number of pages in each one. Please give me the quarterly edition if any of 1857 thru 1860.
The reprint is from my original so forget that.
Thank you for your prompt cooperation. Eric

Page 1 of 1

Subj: **Fwd: TJ Papers**
Date: 04/11/2005 10:39:21 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis, qdbarchive@metrocast.net

Dear Eric and Dave:

Attached is my preliminary response to Dr. Downey, and soon to come will be the attachment with the transcript of Duane's letter to Jefferson.

Thanks,

Joel

Forwarded Message:
Subj: **Re: TJ Papers**
Date: 04/11/2005 10:16:33 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: Joelorosz
To: tdowney@Princeton.EDU

Dear Dr. Downey:

Thank you for sending along this most intriguing letter. This is the first time I have heard of a charge that the disappearance of the liberty cap from the nation's coins came as a result of a Federalist plot. I know enough about William Duane, however, to understand that he read Federalist plots into several events.

Liberty caps occurred only on copper and gold emissions of the United States Mint (not on silver coins). Duane was not exactly correct in stating that the liberty cap had been "erased" from the nation's coinage. For example, in 1801, the Mint struck 44,344 Eagles ($10.00 gold pieces), of the Capped Bust to Right, Heraldic Eagle type, which was minted 1797-1804. The same design was in use on the Half Eagle ($5.00 gold piece) from 1795-1807, although the Mint did not strike any Half Eagels in 1801. Duane was correct, however, that the liberty cap had disappeared from Half Cents after 1797, and from Large Cents after 1796.

It is a bit late tonight to go into detail in answer to you, so I will do some research tomorrow, and get back to you. I will also pass this along to the deans of American numismatic scholarship. Eric P. Newman and Q. David Bowers, to see if they can shed light on the subject.

One more thing to pass along tonight--in my library is a 12pp, undated pamphlet, entitled "Notes Relating to the Gold and Silver Coinage." No indication of author or place of publication is given, except for the closing: "A Disciple of Franklin." The NUC attributes the authorship of this pamphlet to William Duane (149 NUC 0388839). I have re-read this pamphlet, and it does not mention the liberty cap, although it does attack the economic assumptions of Adam Smith in *The Wealth of Nations.* If nothing else, this does demonstrate that.Duane had interest in coinage independent of his letter to Jefferson.

I will delve into this tomorrow, and get back to you.

Thanks,

Joel

From William Duane

Sir

Philadelphia May 10. 1801.

Mr. W. A. Gardner who will present this letter carries with him a small box containing impressions of two Medals, which I have had by me some time past waiting for an opportunity safe and suitable. Mr. Gardner is a man of great worth in every civil relation and is one of those who was compelled to quit the Treasury Department thro' the injuries done him on account of his political opinions. He is no ordinary man, and to his private virtues and political integrity I can justify. He is a native of this city.

The medals of which you will receive copies were engraved by a young man of the name of C. J. Reick, a native of Germany, but a republican, and on that account obliged to fly his native country. It appears that he engraved the Medal of Italicus in secret, and from his own account had an interview with the hero at Rastadt. It seems that in order to come to the United States, he had indented himself, and is now in this city, tho' not in absolute indigence or villainage, is yet circumstanced so as to render his situation irksome to him, as must be supposeable from the merits of his work, and his personal manners.

Hearing of his worth, and knowing what it is to be in a strange land without a knowlege of its language, it occurred to me, that the cap of liberty had been erased from our public coins, and other innovations of a tendency correspondent with the views of certain weak men made during the last administration, and hearing on enquiry that there were public medals to be put out, I thought it a duty in various respects to rescue this man if possible from the unfitness of his condition, and to make his merits known to you.

As a connoisseur I do not pretend to judge of the Medals, but as a person conversant with analogous branches of the arts, they strike me as of superior character. If on consideration the merits of the artist should be such as to entitle him to your patronage, and there are any services in his profession upon which he could be employed, it would greatly serve the man, and afford me extreme delight to have been the means of rescuing him from his present situation. I advised him to draft a letter to you, which he did in German of which a translation tho' very imperfectly done, I think proper to forward herewith. His application is confined to the knowlege of two others and myself. Should there be any commands for him, I shall with great pleasure receive and communicate them to him.

Permit me to mention, that I have found it necessary to enter into the Stationary and Bookselling business, the hostility of the Custom House, and the abuses in the Post office, rendering all idea of profit from my newspaper hopeless. Should no engagements be made for the Supply of Stationary for the public offices, I shall be obliged by the contracts for that Service, which I trust I shall be able to execute as well and on as reasonable terms as any other person.

If no arrangements have been made for obtaining the books to supply the public library, ordered by the late Congress, my acquaintance with men of letters in England, and the most eminent Booksellers, would enable me to procure them with more advantage than any other person not similarly circumstanced could.

These favors I should be grateful for, and as they are professional I trust it will not be considered as presuming that I suggest them. In the season of danger, I laid aside personal considerations, in the return of a milder season, it is incumbent, upon me to make provision for my little progeny, and the little progeny of my predecessor, the descendants of Franklin who have become mine, to which another has been just added by the birth of a daughter.

I have not permitted myself to touch upon politics, because I am not to suppose that you have not other channels by which you can obtain information from hence, & particularly as I am apprehensive of intruding too much upon your leisure. If however, it should be supposed that the confidence which is reposed in me should enable me to give less partial views of the state of parties and political interests and characters in this state, than those who are the interested actors in them, I shall be at all times ready to state faithfully and if necessary frequently such information as may appear to me useful and authentic; at present I think it of the utmost importance that the true state of politics in Pennsylvania should be known, particularly as an election occurs in October and a governmental Election not far remote, for which movements are already making.

I have the honor to be your sincere & respectful Sevt

Wm. Duane

Tuesday noon, the trial on the Indictment at the instigation of the Senate, postponed this instant, to October then to be tried peremptorily!!!

Dr. Franklins daughter Mrs. Bache, is now at table, and requests to be particularly remembered to you.

RC (DLC); at head of text: "Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States"; endorsed by TJ as received 19 May and so recorded in SJL. Enclosure: Jean Reich to TJ, 4 May 1800 [i.e. 1801], printed below.

A die-sinker and medalist, John (Jean) Reich was a German immigrant from the "dominions of the King of Prussia," who arrived in America around 1800. Freed from his indenture through the intercession of Henry Voight, the chief coiner of the Mint, Reich worked for several years as an engraver in Philadelphia before securing a permanent position in the U.S. Mint as assistant engraver from 1807-17. Works attributed to him include a medal commemorating TJ's 1801 inauguration and the Indian peace medals distributed by Lewis and Clark during their western expedition, both of which feature a bust of TJ on the obverse (Noble E. Cunningham, Jr., The Image of Thomas Jefferson in the Public Eye: Portraits for the People, 1800-1809 [Charlottesville, 1981], 71-8; Francis Paul Prucha, Indian Peace Medals in American History [Madison, 1971], 16-24, 90-5; Frank H. Stewart, History of the First United States Mint, Its People and Its Operations [Privately printed, 1924], 93-4; Georgia Stamm Chamberlain, American Medals and Medalists [Annandale, Va., 1963], 54-63; Henry Voight to TJ, 29 Dec. 1801; Reich to TJ, 15 Feb. 1805).

The two medals Duane enclosed were made of block tin. One depicted Frederick William III, King of Prussia, and the other Napoleon Bonaparte. The latter may have been a medal struck in 1798 to commemorate the Treaty of rastadt, which included a bust of Napoleon on the obverse under the word "italicus." It was created for Strasbourg tobacco merchant Etienne-Bernard Mainoni, who had previously commissioned similar tin medals to commemorate the Treaty of Campoformio (Henry Voight to TJ, 29 Dec. 1801; Michel Hennin, Histoire Numismatique de la Révolution Française, 2 vols. [Paris, 1826; repr., Pays-Bas, 1970], 1:569-70, 615; 2:Pl. 81, nos. 812-814, Pl. 89, no. 880).

The cap of liberty was a conical cap emblematic of the pilleaus or Phrygian cap of ancient Rome, which was given to former slaves at the time of their emancipation. The cap (placed on a wand projecting behind the head) appeared in the design of half cent coins issued by the U.S. Mint from 1793-7 and on one cent coins from 1793-6. A new draped bust design by engraver Robert Scot, which lacked the liberty cap, appeared on one cent coins in July 1796 and on half cents in 1800. Shortly after Reich joined the mint in 1807, he issued a new design, which originally appeared on the half dollar and half eagle ($5) coins. The design included a new depiction of liberty wearing a mobcap with "Liberty" appearing on the band, which critics denounced as a reintroduced liberty cap. Mint officials at the time, however, intended that the new headdress was merely "a model in good taste of the fashion of the time" and not a resurrection of the liberty cap motif (Walter Breen, Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins [New York, 1988], 161-6, 181-9, 340-1, 380-1, 485, 488, 518-19, 544-5, 703, 706; Samuel Moore to TJ, 14 Feb. 1825 [RC in DLC]).

the descendants of franklin who have become mine: Duane married Margaret Hartman Bache, the widow of Benjamin Franklin Bache, on 28 June 1800, and became step-father to Bache's four sons: Franklin, Richard, Benjamin, and Hartman. Elizabeth, the first of the Duanes' five children, was born ????? (Aurora, 30 June 1800; Rosenfeld, American Aurora, 37, 226, 903).

enclosure

From Jean Reich

May it please your Excellency Philada. May 4th. 1800 [i.e. 1801]

I, who now take the liberty of addressing you, am a stranger who have fled from my native Country, oppressed by Tyrants & deluged in blood, to seek an Asylum in this blessed land of liberty. After a tedious and dangerous passage

across the Atlantic, my heart rejoiced at the prospect of soon seeing an end to my misery; but my hopes were quickly blighted when I learnt that my occupation was held in small esteem in this Country. Having no other resource, without friends. without a knowledge of the English language, and not even having money sufficient to pay my passage, I saw all my fellow passengers leave the ship and gain immedeate employment at thier respective occupations. No one thought my Talents worth the purchase, and I was left alone, on board, as an outcast. Once indeed I was visited by a Gentleman, who, as I have been told, is Engraver of the Mint. to him I shewed my Medals & he approved of the work and seemed to give me some hopes of employment under him; but after he left me I heard no more from him: Being then compelled either to pay my passage or go to jail, I resolved to agree, with any person who would pay my passage, on as good terms as I could; An opportunity of that kind soon offered, and I am now in a State of bondage at hard labour cut off from social happiness and litteraly a Slave in a land of liberty:

I have however been informed of two things which give me a cheering ray of hope.—first, the U.S. are in want of good Medals.—and second, that the chief Magistrate may be addressed, by a friendless being like myself without taking offence, and that at Monticelli the arts are not held in contempt.—I hope therefore that if the Specimens of my workmanship meet your approbation, you will order matters so that I may be employed, in such a way as to regain my freedom, and become a usefull Citizen of the United States.

I am yr Excellencies Most Obedt Serv.

C: Jean Reich.

RC (ViWC); endorsed by TJ as a letter of "4 May 1801"; recorded in SJL as received on 19 May with notation "Off."

Subj: **Re: Invitation**
Date: 04/13/2005 9:31:05 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

While I am disappointed that we will not be seeing you at the San Francisco ANA convention, I completely sympathize with your reasoning, and offer best wishes to your grandson. Speaking as a happily married man of some 26 years standing, I heartily endorse the conjugal state, and wish him joy.

Turnabout is indeed fair play, and I will do my best to pinch-hit for you, but to continue with the baseball metaphor, I am afraid it will be akin to Babe Herman pinch-hitting for Babe Ruth. Or, to put it in more statesmanlike terms, I feel much like Jefferson, who when asked if was replacing Dr. Franklin as ambassador to France, replied "No one can hope to replace Dr. Franklin. I merely succeed him."

Thanks for considering this invitation, and I hope that you and Evelyn have a wonderful time cruising the waters off Alaska.

Warm regards,

Joel

Subj: **Liberty Cap**
Date: 04/16/2005 10:54:49 A.M. Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
In answer to your inquiry about political objection to the Liberty Cap design I have no citations. However using pure logic I believe it is unreasonable to believe there could have been any effective influence to cause any change. Since the design of the copper half cents through 1797 had a Liberty Cap and the design of the cents eliminated the Liberty Cap in the middle of 1796. If there was an objection it would have been to all coppers with a Liberty Cap , not just part of them. The gold and silver pieces had no Liberty Caps at all until Reich designs took over.
The word LIBERTY had to be somewhere on the coin. Reich put it on a Liberty cap and later designers put it on a coronet. The hair styles changed and the direction of facing changed. The Liberty Cap would have been objected to about 1807 if there was any objection. The French previously used the Liberty Cap and LIBERTE and maybe someone may not have liked our copying any of that even though the French already had copied much of the American Revolutionary thinking.
I hope this will help a little. If my facts or hoped for logic is off Please let me know.
My best Eric

Subj: **Re: Liberty Cap**
Date: 04/18/2005 12:48:33 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
If you wish to send my comment to you to the Jefferson papers I would like to rewrite it. I would like to show that the copper coinage began earlier than the gold or silver, that the silver never had a liberty cap in the earlier years, that the gold never gave up the Liberty Cap, that the prominence of the Liberty cap on the copper was greater than on the gold or even in Reich's later design, etc.

Please give me a day or so to rewrite it. I just quickly did it for you.

Duane may have reported an objection about which nothing happened.

I also would like to point out that the failure of the half cent change to a bust design might have been because they did not wish to make another obverse matrix punch because they were going to discontinue making half cents as they actually did in 1798 and 1799. They just wanted to use up the planchets they had on hand in 1797
My best. Eric

Monday, April 18, 2005 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: Liberty Cap**
Date: 04/17/2005 9:43:40 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

I think you are absolutely correct that if there had been pressure to remove the liberty cap from U.S. coinage, such removal would have happened all at once (as it did not on copper coins), and it would have happened across the board (gold coins continued to feature liberty caps after the caps had disappeared from copper coins).

This all suggests to me that the charge that a Federalist conspiracy to remove the liberty cap from U.S. coinage was afoot at the end of the 18th century was a fantasy of William Duane, not a fact.

With your permission, I would like to forward your response to the Jefferson Papers at Princeton–ok if I do so?

Many thanks, and warm regards,

Joel

Page 1 of 1

Subj: **Re: Liberty Cap**
Date: 04/18/2005 10:13:08 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

If you wouldn't mind rewriting the comment, that would be great. The scholars at the Jefferson Papers have been very kind to us in our research, and it would be nice to have the best numismatic thinking enriching the annotation of this Jefferson letter.

I completely agree with your reasoning. Duane's explanation simply falls apart upon examination.

Thank you, as always, for your help. It is very broad-minded for an MIT man to help out the folks at Princeton!

Warm regards,

Joel

Subj: **Liberty Cap on US Coinage**
Date: 04/19/2005 12:40:38 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
You inquired as to what I might know about any complaints against the Liberty Cap on US Coinage and their effect. I can try to help by pointing out some unusual features of the usage of the Liberty Cap designs which might help indicate that the coin designers were apparently unaffected by any complaints. Naturally some people might have been upset by thinking that US was using a French symbol when there was still considerable affection for Britain.
As you know the 1792 copper and silver coinage patterns made in Philadelphia before the first US Mint opened did not have a Liberty Cap design. The half cent in 1793 had a Liberty Cap not on but behind the head and continued through 1797. Sometimes it was supported on a pole but usually not. The cent did not have a Liberty Cap at first in 1793 but adopted it toward the end of 1793 but in 1796 stopped using the Liberty Cap during the year and switched over to the bust design later in the year. This was unusual for the Liberty Cap design to be changed to the bust design during 1796 for the cent and for the half cent to remain with the Liberty Cap design through all of 1796 and 1797. This certainly seems to show that there was no influence based on any complaint as to the design. The only explanation I can imagine is that because of the limited need for half cents the Mint did not wish to make a new matrix for the obverse design and made the dies with the existing matrix punch so that the supply of half cent planchets on hand or on order could be used up. No half cents were coined in 1798 and 1799.
The sliver coinage beginning in 1794 (25 cent in 1796) always had a bust without a Liberty Cap until Reich design when the word LIBERTY was moved to a band on a Liberty Cap worn on the head of the bust.
The gold coinage beginning in 1795 always had a Liberty Cap on the head of the bust which in due course was redesigned. It was intended to be distinguishable from the silver design.
From the foregoing I do not see any basis for other than the mint artists determining the designs for coinage.
Please check these thoughts if any seem inaccurate.
My best to you. Eric

Dear Joel:
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From the foregoing I do not see any basis for other than the mint artists determining the designs for coinage.
Please check these thoughts if any seem
inaccurate.
My best to you. Eric

Subj: **Re: Liberty Cap on US Coinage**
Date: 04/25/2005 7:48:04 A.M. Central Daylight Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

Thanks so much for this carefully reasoned argument, to which I have neither correction nor quibble to add. I will pass it along to Dr. Thomas Downey at the Jefferson Papers.

My apologies for not having answered sooner--my mother was rushed to the hospital last week with what was supposed to be a stroke, but fortunately turned out to be a sudden episode of acutely high blood pressure, from which she has made a full recovery. This, as you can imagine, has fully occupied my time for the past several days.

Again, I thank you for sharing your reasoning with the Jefferson Papers--all the best to you.

Warm regards,

Joel

Subj: **Disme**
Date: 08/10/2005 7:57:35 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: Joelorosz

Dear Joel:
I presume you read the article by Ackerman in the August 2005 Numismatst on Dismes. It does cite your AJN article at the end along with standard references. It is well written. In my view it lacks anything even close to being new. It is acceptable rehash.
I do not want you to be disturbed by its failure to give your article proper credit for source material it heavily relied upon from your article. At least it does not criticize your article.
It may reach a different audience than yours.
Yet it could be eligible for an annual prize.
I am accustomed to things like this but want to be sure you know this is the world we live in.
My best. Eric

Subj: **Re: Disme**
Date: 08/11/2005 5:41:52 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

Thanks for mentioning this article. I had not read the latest copy of *Numismatist* yet, so I read this article with great interest. I completely agree with your assessment of it--it was well-written, but almost completely derivative.

The article underlines the long decline of *Numismatist* from a journal that published significant research to a glossy but utterly insubstantial magazine. I have fond memories of reading a number of your Heath Literary Award articles within its pages, now I read pablum. An interesting question is whether this is the best sort of article that *Numismatist* can attract, or if their new format discourages articles of quality. I suspect it is the latter--they lost more that the "The" when they went to this magazine format.

Your observation that a bit of fluff such as this article may win a prize, is sad, but cannot be gainsaid. It is indeed the world in which we live.

I am happy to report one thing: I had a long and friendly talk with Karl Moulton at the San Francisco ANA. We have agreed to disagree about a number of interpretations of the facts surrounding the half dismes, but we do remain friends.

I hope your cruise to Alaska was as enjoyable as it sounds. I missed seeing you at the ANA, and hope that our paths may cross again at Denver next year, if not before.

Warm regards,

Joel

Subj: **RE: Dentilation at the UK Mint report.**
Date: 08/11/2005 6:03:09 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: jdrc@mindspring.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Dear Eric:

Sounds interesting, to say the least.....will read tonight, as I am in Baltimore at a coin show and am heading out to dinner in a little while.

On another subject:

There may be some truth to the Brad Karoleff theory about the reeding on pre-1828 US coins.....he thinks some sort of segmented collar was used. He asked me to see if you have any off-center pre-1828 reeded edge coins.....

If you do, do they have reeeding?

I examined an early gold coin (1803/2 half eagle) here in Baltimore that was struck from misaligned dies.....obverse about 10% off.....

Guess what? It has NO reeding.....plain edge all the way around!

The segmented collar was around in Europe during this time, so maybe its possible that the segmented collar was known as an "open" collar at that time (?)

We KNOW, as the Mint documents say, that the close collar was introduced for produciton coins in 1828, but, as we have talked about on several occasions, we really don't know what an "open" collar really was.....

Another intriguing situation.

If a segmented collar was used, there should be some tiny dividing line or evidence of this, so we should discover it, if this is true.

Another question.....was your Washington President gold piece intended as a $10 piece or a doubloon? Do you know what it weighs?

Best,

JD

Subj: **ANS**
Date: 11/01/2005 11:56:01 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: Joelorosz
To: EricNumis

Dear Eric:

I have just learned the very welcome news that I have been elected a Fellow of the ANS. Needless to say, I regard this as a great honor, and will accept the Trustees' kind invitation.

I suspect that your influence was at work behind the scenes, and I am grateful to you for this ~~vote of~~ confidence. I ~~will certa~~inly strive to justify your faith in me during my tenure as a Fellow.

Thanks very much for being a mentor and a friend for so long.

Warm regards,

Joel

Wednesday, November 02, 2005 America Online: EricNumis
Wednesday, November 02, 2005 America Online: EricNumis